In case you didn’t know . . .
Northern Blend Chorus hosted “Harrisville Harmony” on the shores of Lake Huron Aug. 31, Sept. 1–3.

For over 50 years, barbershop harmony has been celebrated here annually by both men and women on the Labor Day Weekend.

Quartets and choruses from Sweet Adelines International and the Barbershop Harmony Society were featured. Also, one of Michigan’s largest craft shows takes place on Harrisville’s streets, and there is a golf tournament, singing in local churches, street parade, harmonizing around campfires, tags.

Music On The Hill is continuous entertainment by singers and musicians on the weekend at the craft show. All Sweet Adelines are invited to sing in the mass chorus for the weekend performance.

Featured songs this year were “Sweet Adeline,” “Fun In Just One Lifetime,” “Battle Hymn,” “Chordbuster March” and “How We Sang Today.” Linda Liddicoatt and Susan Heimburger handled the music. Featured quartet: Fusion (2016 & 2017 SAI first place Region 17 champions competing this fall in Las Vegas.)
Well, it seems that we are all wondering the same thing. Where did the summer go? Our July was highlighted by a coaching session with Char Gurney who traveled from Ohio to be with us. She had many wonderful suggestions and was a joy to be with.

Again this year Northern Blend had a very busy August, the Ogemaw County Fair being one of the main events. As in the years past many members entertained at the fair and also worked in the fair kitchen serving the wonderful dinners. Several of the ladies worked the bingo hall as well. It is not easy work and we are very grateful for those who are able.

Our pie ladies have been busy as well. They made 160 pies a few weeks ago and they were all sold in less than a week so they have been at it again. They work in a local church kitchen and make some of the best pies around and they have become so popular that there is a waiting list.

Once again our biggest endeavor was the Harrisville Harmony Weekend over Labor Day. (See photos previous page.) We began with the Thursday night party at the pavilion which was hosted by Northern Blend. Good food and good times were had throughout the evening. The party is always a lot of fun and is a great opener for the weekend.

We had a golf tournament on Friday and proceeds from that as well as a few passed baskets at Maria Hall were donated to Young Women in Harmony in the name of Joan Kienitz who recently passed away unexpectedly. Everyone was generous and we were able to collect $435 for the Young Women. Friday evening several returned to the Golf Course Bar for harmonizing, singing and / or enjoying. There was “Music on the Hill” all day Saturday among the many crafters.

Saturday night was a great time at Maria Hall. We had a good deal of participation and were entertained by choruses and quartets, two of them being winners in their regions. Our very own FUSION was there and absolutely wonderful. CHECKMATE was with us as well. They are the current 2017 Men’s Senior Division Champs in the Pioneer District of Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). They will soon compete at their International in the overall senior division contest. Craig Pollard is the lead and family member of the Pollards who helped start the Harrisville Harmony weekend many years ago. Of course Nancy Liedel was once again our MC.

Sunday found us sharing our music with the folks at the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church for the morning services.

As always it was so enjoyable to hear the sounds of song into the night at the campgrounds. Nothing like a campfire and singing to soothe the soul.

We hope you enjoy the re-cap with some of the photos gathered from the event. If you were not there you should keep the date open for next year and come join the fun!

Several of our members are heading to the Renaissance Festival held annually in Holly, MI. It is hard work but the workers make tips and it has proven to be a very good fundraiser for those who have the energy. Members of Northern Blend very much enjoyed working beside other SA friends last year and again, we thank those who worked very hard for our chorus.

Hope to see you at the Fall Regional the weekend of the 23rd in Dearborn!

Submitted by Chris Noteware

A woman who lived and loved barbershop passed away on August 1, 2017 leaving many of her sisters in song singing her praise. Joan Kienitz, former member of the Flint and Thumb Area Choruses died of liver cancer at her home in Fenton, MI. Active in fundraising and the youth programs in both Sweet Adelines and Barbershop Harmony Society, Joan was a past regional leader and always eager to help. Her ready smile and helpful presence will be missed. Many thanks from the family for your support in those final days with your calls, visits, and singing.

Fred & Joan Kienitz
We've had quite the busy summer and yet still had time to take a three-week vacation. We're changing it up this year and have already started coaching. A wonderful session with Renee Porzel and looking forward to working with Jim Arns.

Our music team made a great showing at the director’s workshop with Lori Lyford! Our own Jeanne Lundberg and Nancy Liedel were the organizers of this event as Directors Coordinator and Education Coordinator for the region.

We had a few performances this summer as well. Three hours of strolling and singing at the Fenton Art Walk and then helping the Canton Walmart with their grand reopening.

Our director Jeanne Lundberg and associate director Nancy Liedel also attended the International Educational Symposium in College Park Maryland. A wonderful week of education and entertainment!

We’ve also joined the rock project of Sweet Adelines Rock! on Facebook, painting rocks and putting contact information on the back. What a fun way to advertise our chorus and our organization! Everyone should join!

In closing, we want to wish all our International competition representatives the best of times in Las Vegas! You already make us proud! So go have the time of your lives!
“Curtain Going Up . . . on Another Show!” Saturday October 21, will be “A Time for Us” as we perform at our 60th anniversary “Diamond Harmony” Show. Let’s just hope that Liana, our director doesn’t lose her “Makeup Case” again!

After the excitement of Dearborn subsided, we quickly buckled down to practices for our upcoming anniversary show. Business issues, of course cannot be avoided, and on June 21, we held our annual general meeting. Following the necessary business details, and the formation of new committees, last year’s recipient of the “Sweet Adeline of the Year” Award, Sue Sutherland, conducted the installation ceremony of our new board of directors.

Melissa Wright will remain on as our president, while Sue Sutherland retains the vice president position. Our secretary is Annamarie Murray, and Leslie Lennon takes over the duties of treasurer. Thanks ladies for your willingness to serve your chorus!

Congratulations are also due to Leslie Lennon for taking on the position of Region 2 webmaster.

Our annual birthday dinner potluck on June 28, became a dual celebration this year. In honor of the 60th anniversary of this chorus, special invitations were sent out to all former directors and members. Spouses/significant others were added to the guest list as well. This special event was held at the home farm of Annamarie and David Murray. Surrounded by the beauty of Annamarie’s amazing perennial gardens, as well as her weedless vegetable garden, the hay shelter was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Annamarie and her party committee of Noreen Olivier, Louise Monteith, and Anne Matheson did an amazing job of preparing for this event!

Thanks to Anne Matheson who prepared a photo collage of the costumes. So much reminiscing was done!

Guests enjoyed David’s barbecued smoked porkchops, served with various delicious salads prepared by some of our members. The honour of cutting the anniversary cakes for dessert was given to Helene Purdy, a life-time member since 1960, and Lynn Ropp, a charter member, and former chorus director. Special recognition was also given to Clare French, another former director.

Following dinner, with Annamarie acting as MC for the evening, we were entertained by a number of different acts. Our chorus quartet “HOPE” became “POEM” when our director stepped in as a substitute for our baritone who could not be there. A skit “If I were not an Adeline” was performed to the delight of the audience, and the chorus sang a few of our favourites as well.

Anne Matheson presented longevity membership pins to Joyce Hanson (45 years) and Louise Monteith (25 years)!

Congratulations ladies!

The “Spirit Award” and the “Sweet Adeline of the Year” Award were both awarded to a very deserving Annamarie Murray. Congratulations Annamarie, you give so much of yourself and your time to this chorus!

Canada’s 150th Birthday on July 1, was extra special for this chorus. We performed at Celebrations in Rostock, then flash-mobbed the wedding of a chorus member’s daughter, where we were even invited to stay for the meal. Then it was on to the Stratford Parade where we climbed aboard our beautifully decorated float, and sang all the way along the parade route! Our thanks to member Joyce Hanson for the use of her wagon and her husband Bob who pulled us along in his truck! Hope you enjoyed your pecan pie Bob!

The month of July was a bit of a respite for us before we returned early to regular practices on August 9 in preparation for our 60th anniversary show “Diamond Harmony.” We are excited to present this show on October 21 at 7 p.m. at Avondale United Church here in Stratford. Our special guests will be “The Heet.”

We invite you to join us and help us celebrate this special anniversary milestone.
April was a busy time at Grand Harmony, as it is for all Region 2 choruses! Not only were we honoured to take home medals, but we had fun with our pre-contest performances too. The chorus took our contest package on a mini Kitchener-Waterloo show tour, performing for various choirs. This experience was fantastic and helped add to our confidence and excitement leading into contest.

Grand Harmony’s CONTOUR quartet won the novice award at the regional contest. We are so proud of this incredible new quartet!

Grand Harmony performed at a number of Mother’s Day events. These are some of our favourites each year! We love bringing smiles to the faces of those in the audience.

In June, we celebrated Canada 150 with an acappella journey across Canada! This show was so much fun to produce and perform! From the Calgary Stampede to Corner Gas to Charlottetown and Celine Dion to Barenaked Ladies to Michael Bublé, it was all about Canada’s best landmarks, music and customs -- including a few dozen stops at Timmies.

One of our chorus goals this year is to get involved in the community around us – reach out, connect, and inspire song in any way that we can! On June 25, a handful of chorus members, as well as our director, Chris Arnold, ran the “Eastbridge Idol” face-off for the Eastbridge Neighbourhood Amazing Race!

Family teams from the community ran / biked / walked through 30+ challenges and checkpoints. At our checkpoint, race teams were taught a tag and then had a sing off (or tag off, as the case may be.) The winning teams moved on to their next clue while the other waited for the next team to come sing. It was ridiculously fun and we met some great singers in our neighbourhood! One of the tags was from the song, “You Are So Beautiful.” It’s amazing how quickly complete strangers can create gorgeous harmony with the right tag!

Grand Harmony Chorus was invited by the choir at Conrad Grebel University College to open and their Island Music Concert with a song. We also performed later in their program and danced in their music video, which was being recorded in part that evening!

This summer we began implementing Weekly Harmony Spotlights at each rehearsal. These spotlights invite chorus members to come up and perform – solos, duets, quartet. It’s all about building performance skills in front of a supportive audience.

This spring and summer have been busy for our quartets! KEY OF SHE quartet has a new bass, Karen Willis, REZONATION quartet has a new bass, Sheri Frey, and brand-new quartet, SERENITY, is now hosting auditions for their bass!

IN REMEMBRANCE: This spring and summer, our hearts broke as we lost two beloved, long-time chorus members to cancer. Doreen Bierman was such a big part of our chorus, as well as the cherished friend and bass singer of Touch of Class Quartet. We also lost Shirley Thum who was a beautiful, gentle voice on the risers and a big part of our harmony family. We were honoured to sing at their memorials. They will be greatly missed.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Fall Auditions & Holiday Performances
GHC Christmas Show – November 26
Chorus Retreat, January 2018
For the past several years in the month of May, the members of our chorus who have been the recipients of china from their mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers, have shared the beauty of their delicate and fragile collection at a very popular and sold-out Sunday afternoon High Tea. Guests come early just to stroll around and appreciate the displayed beauty, and, of course, the chorus adds to the event by singing between the serving of a catered three-course culinary delight, and the pouring of two varieties of tea. The Sunday afternoon High Tea is an event that both the chorus and the guests look forward to each year.

June brought the Parade of Homes to the area, and once again, we were given the honor of hosting one of the newly built homes for the public. There are always more non-profit groups who vie for this lucrative privilege than there are available houses. Might it be that we sometimes greet the visitors with four-part harmony that has something to do with our being chosen each year? One beautiful June Saturday, we used the facilities of a local church to hold our yearly retreat. There is nothing more effective in bringing members together to forge strong bonds and renew commitments than a retreat. The day was carefully scheduled, and packed with fun and educational activities.

Black Star Farms, a local winery, was the venue of a gorgeous June wedding where we were hired to perform for arriving guests at the reception. As the bride was being transported to the site of the vows, we serenaded her with “The Chapel of Love.” After the ceremony, when she and her attendants arrived at the reception, we greeted them with “Oh, You Beautiful Doll,” and when the men entered, the bride requested that we sing, “It’s Raining Men.” Since the groom and his men were Navy SEALs, we also sang, “Let Freedom Ring.” It was a beautiful day, a beautiful wedding, and we as a chorus now have beautiful memories.

A coaching session with the amazing Cindy Hanson is not to be taken lightly. Laughter and learning seems to be her magic formula, and it works! In June, she helped us put together our Las Vegas Harmony Classic package. YES! Coaching by Skype? Don’t knock it until you try it, because that’s just what we did when our July coaching session with Molly Huffman was interrupted by a summer storm that canceled her flight. During the winter months, we accept the reality that sometimes all our best plans are interrupted by bad weather, but in the summer? Thanks for playing Molly!

In August while Jill was away attending I.E.S. (and chumming with the incredible Deke Sharon), the chorus had a successful garage sale. August also brought back Cindy Hanson to see how we’d progressed in the competition package. She then proceeded to challenge us by adding even more to the production! The final finishing touch is still ahead when Coach Kerrie Denino will work her magic on raising the chorus’ vocal production to match the excellence of the visible package.

Thanks to Shoreline Sound Chorus for naming us in the TAG CHALLENGE that has been spreading across the organization. We answered with a rousing Chordbusters tag and posted it to social media!

We are so looking forward to sharing this exciting time in our chorus life with you. See you in Dearborn!
Hello to our sisters in Region 2! Summer is almost over and we have returned to practice refreshed, relaxed and rarin’ to go! So much is going on!

Before contest, last year’s newbies Bonnie C, Linda B, and Kathy H initiated this year’s newbies Amie F, Robbie L, and Jenny F. They did us proud in Dearborn! We also welcomed former member Celia K and Snowbird Lorie D back into our chorus.

We held our installation banquet in May with a “fruit of the vine” theme. Our installing officer, Lois, installed our new board consisting of president Debbie D, vice-president Cathy F, treasurer Debbie L, corresponding secretary Karen PD, and recording secretary Connie T. These ladies have big plans for our chorus! The Showmanship Award was presented to Kathy H by Amanda M, and our former director Dolores Foreman presented the Miss Congeniality Award to Connie T. Thank you, Northern Belles for a memorable evening!

At the end of June, we enjoyed HOE Hoedown by the Lake at the home of Kathy Hogan. It was a wonderful day, with perfect weather, in a beautiful venue. Naturally, cowboy games were played by all — “Snakes in the Basket,” “Lasso That Bronc,” and “Water-gun fight at the HOE Corral.” We had too much fun! After an authentic cowboy meal, we posed for our Canada Day picture and then sang the night away under the setting sun, a century old sycamore tree, and later on, the stars. Thank you to our County Connexxion Hostesses and to Kathy for offering us her beautiful home and yard.

Some of the county ladies participated in the Kingsville Senior Expo. We spontaneously burst into song and were asked to perform for the Kingsville Seniors’ Group this fall. “From the Heart” awards were presented to Lois, Lorna, Joyce, and most recently, Kathy H.

Guest night will be held on the 20th of September. Some of us will be at the Fall Regional in Dearborn where our beloved Lorna will receive a special award to commemorate her 60 years of beautiful harmony! Please give her your congratulations! On the 30th, we have two performances, one in Kingsville and the other at Calvary Community Church in Windsor.

In October, we have been invited to perform at the Do Good Divas, one of Windsor’s premier charity events. We will be welcoming guests as they ascend the grand staircase at the Caboto Club. Two days later, we’ll be joining the men’s barbershop chorus on stage at their annual show. What a double honour!

In November, we welcome coach Lynne Peirce back to our chorus for another series of coaching sessions. We all enjoy this lady’s dedication and patience. Together with our beloved interim director, Lois, we will learn and hone two new songs for contest. We can hardly wait!

Our Christmas show will be held at the end of November. Details to be announced.

December is another busy month. On December 13, we have our Christmas party – an old-fashioned Christmas — hostessed by the Wonderful Women of Windsor.

Between December 14 and 15 we have three performances, perhaps more!

That’s about it from our little corner of the world. See you all at Fall Regional!
LOCK CITIES CHORUS
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
~~ Trudy Pettenuzzo

WOW, can’t believe that it is September already! The summer seems to have flown by, but the signs are unmistakable. Leaves are turning colour, geese are flying south, and we have started our Christmas repertoire! We will be performing for a number of our local retirement homes again this year, plus a Christmas concert or two. We are also planning a spaghetti supper to raise money for the chorus. We’ll be getting out our aprons and hair nets once again.

Lock Cities Chorus has had a busy summer. We had a show in Sault, Michigan, with our friends from the Northland Chorus. It was the 10th year that we paired up with the men in order to raise money for the Sault Theatre Project. This project is the refurbishment of an old theatre and it has been our pleasure to help out. We called our portion of the show, “Our Favourite Things” and we sang some of our old favourites from the archives.

Then in August, we were asked to participate in the Fringe Festival in Sault, Ontario. This 10-day festival was in part a celebration of Canada’s 150th birthday, so we brought out some of our repertoire that fit with this theme. We welcomed our audience (“Consider Yourself”). We wished them joy and love (“May You Always”), we talked about the close relationship between Sault Michigan and Sault Ontario (“Side by Side”), and our wish for the world (“Let There Be Peace”) plus some songs just for fun, (“Alexander’s Ragtime Band” and “It’s Raining Men.”)

Now we are looking forward to sending some of our members to the regional weekend in September, hoping to bring back lots and lots of interesting stuff (and having a great time with our friends from around Region 2!)

See you in Dearborn!

LONDON CHORUS London, Ontario
~~ Jo Kulik

Where has the summer gone? London chorus held our first-ever free outdoor concert in Springbank Park in June and entertained an audience of about 85 people. What a way to kick off Canada’s 150th birthday celebrations! Dressed in Canadian red and white, in a bandshell decorated for the occasion, we rocked the park.

We then took a three-week break in July. We returned refreshed, ready to begin our journey to St. Louis in October 2018. Our first rehearsal was an all-day retreat at Harmony Woods. We had a great “reunion” hug session upon arrival then learned two new Christmas songs, did some team building and brainstorming. The bonus of the day was our meals prepared and served by camping barbershoppers.

Former member, Reeka Spence, invited us to her cottage on Lake Huron in July for another 150 celebration. We shared great food, games, beach time and many laughs.

August in full swing sees us getting back to work: new music, new costumes, new ideas (thanks to four members returning from I.E.S.), guest night plans, Big Bike for Heart and Stroke and a renewed focus for the upcoming season. We continue to support the improved health of Michelle Decman who is on the mend from her recent surgery, and Joyce Walter who is showing improvement following a serious accident while on vacation in California. Both ladies welcomed the intense therapy provided in Parkwood Hospital so that they can return to us soon. Thank you Region 2 for your continued support for our sisters in song.
It was such a thrill to come in first place at the spring regional contest, then to watch all the results come in – SLOWly – from all around the world and to find that, for that contest, we were in ninth place. We will compete 16th in St. Louis next year and be able to cheer for our friends from London Chorus, #33, both of us proudly representing Border Lakes Region 2. Kudos to our members in A LOTTA CHATA, FULL CIRCLE, FUSION, NOVELTY SHOP, SPECTRUM, THE VIBE and UP TO NOTE GOOD quartets for what they accomplished in regional contest and for their musical escapades since then. Fusion, The Vibe, Up to Note Good and Spectrum are working their magic on our positively deFRIIGHTful show October 22 at the Ford Performing Arts Center that we open with a Halloween theme. We have done many fun things aimed at getting to know everyone in our blended family. One was a summer tailgate party where we had assigned seating with members we may not yet have gotten to know yet, even though we've been together since January! Many rehearsals have had themes: patriotic, Hawaiian, sports. At the beginning of each month, we have everyone whose birthday is within that month come up to the front and introduce themselves and answer questions from a card, so we can know a bit more about each one that way. New members include: Lynn Leppek-Frank, Traci Martin and Pam Reilly.

We got free ice cream after singing at an ice cream social in Sterling Heights.

We sang the national anthem on Memorial Day!

Day of Lori Lyford's coaching under the region's grant program.
Motor City Blend proudly presents

**POSITIVELY DEFRIGHTFUL!**

Sunday, October 22 at 3:00 pm

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, MI 48126

Children under 12 $5.00,
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Contact Brook Tucker for tickets
(734) 776-8962 or brooktucker10@wowway.com

Special Guest Performances by:

**Throwback**
2017 Fourth Place BHS Medalists

Fusion
2017 Region 17 Quartet Champions

The Vibe
2017 Region 2 Quartet Champions

Up To Note Good
2017 Region 2 4th Place Quartet Medalist

Spectrum
2017 Region 2 5th Place Quartet Medalist
Greetings from the shores of Lake Michigan! As temperatures cool and the trees begin to show their true colors, the Prospective A Cappella Bella Chorus, under the direction of Marilee Wexstaff, is gearing up for a busy fall season. First though, let’s review the past three months.

Summer began with a day of community service on Flag Day, June 14. Several Bellas led the patriotic singing for an afternoon ceremony at the American House Senior Residence in Spring Lake. That evening, we joined the Grand Haven Elks for the third straight year, providing the music for their Flag Day Ceremony. Our last stop found us singing at the American Legion following Post 28’s ceremony. The Bellas’ other summer commitment was the North Muskegon Parade on Aug. 11. We were fortunate to be at the beginning of the parade, as strong storms moved into the area just as we were breaking down our float. We were soaked to the skin, but our spirits were not dampened as we ate dinner at a local restaurant and entertained the patrons with song.

Our fall/winter calendar is filling up quickly. We will have our next “Ladies’ Night Out” membership drive October 4. The Muskegon Lumberjacks have invited us to sing the national anthem at one or more of their hockey games. On November 11 we honor our veterans by singing at the Veteran’s Day dinner hosted by the Grand Haven Elks. We will team with Egelcraft Mobile Home Park December 6 for “Santa and Hot Cocoa” as a thank-you for allowing us to use their clubhouse for rehearsals. Finally, we are extremely excited to be planning our first-ever Christmas show in early December. It might be September, but the strains of “Santa Baby” and “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas” are already ringing through the clubhouse and stuck in our heads!

The Bellas have also been invited by our coach, Mike Oonk, to sing in the Holland Windmill Chorus Tulip Time Show May 5, 2018. It is a wonderful evening of barbershop music, and we are thrilled to be asked to participate.

The A Cappella Bellas are 15 members strong, and it is our plan to move to Step 2 in November. Our ultimate goal is to charter in 2018. We know we will accomplish our goals with the support of Region 2.

We’ve been fairly busy this summer. In April, we had a performance at the Michigan Blood Bank at the LFA Hall in Bay City. Another performance in May at St. Stans in Bay City, in June at Health Source. Also in June, we sang at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church at Reed City. In July, we had a performance at Sheffield Place, an assisted living facility in Bay City and we sang at Bayfield Assisted Living in Bay City. In August, we worked concessions at a Loons game at Dow Diamond in Midland and we participated in the Tuesdays in the Park program in Pinconning. Also last month we did a performance at Faith Lutheran in Bay City and we sang the national anthem at a Loons game at Dow Diamond. Some of our chorus went up north to Harrisville and participated in Harmony Weekend. Hope to see you for Regional.
A recent Peanuts cartoon featured Lucy saying, “I’ve never seen a summer go by so fast in all my life!” I couldn’t agree with her more. It seems we were all just at contest, then having our spring installation dinners and looking forward to summer. Here we are now, the beginning of September and the return to regular chorus routines and looking forward to the upcoming Christmas season.

Our installation dinner was held in May at the French Hall adjacent to our regular rehearsal venue. One of the things we do well are potluck dinners, and this one was another success. Our former member Donna Sullivan performed the installation ceremony. Donna has been a member of Sweet Adelines for many years. She transferred to Shoreline Sound Chorus several years ago, but has always stayed in touch with Seaway Sounds and attends many of our events. We were all happy to see her, as well as several “retired” chorus members who came to celebrate and sing with us once again. New management team members for 2018 are: (left to right in photo) Diane Lambert, team leader; Diane Lamarche, secretary; Margaret Anne McKichan past team leader; Barb Bell-Leaver, visual team leader; Erin Fletcher, treasurer; BJ Swarts, membership; Michelle St. Onge-Mitchell, director; Kelly Graham, assistant team leader and marketing, and Linda McGregor, fundraising.

Seaway Sounds takes off the month of July, at least in theory. There were continued rehearsals for our ensembles, and our annual event in mid-July called Hobbyfest, organized and looked after by our Energizer Bunny Membership Chair, BJ Swarts. Held in Sarnia’s beautiful Centennial Park, organizations of all kinds get together to showcase their various hobbies and creative interests to the public. No better place for a Sweet Adelines chorus to show off and offer invitations to women who might be interested in our particular four-part a cappella style of singing. Our friends, the Blue Water Chordsmen, participate in Hobbyfest as well, offering opportunities to the men. It was another successful event, and BJ has the names and contact information for several women who were interested is seeing what we are all about.

Our annual guest night will be held Wednesday, September 13 at our regular rehearsal hall, St. Francois Xavier School Cafeteria, 901 The Rapids Parkway, Sarnia, Ontario. U.S. and Canadian women welcome. Seaway Sounds is a truly international chorus, with members from both sides of the border. We hope to see many of the women who visited us at Hobbyfest.

We were excited and privileged to have four of our members travel to I.E.S. in July! Director Michelle St. Onge-Mitchell, assistant director Rose Johnston, chorus choreographer Emma Crosbie and bass section leader Erin Fletcher. They came back with so many ideas they are still vibrating! We have already seen their excitement spill over into these first few rehearsals since their return, and we can’t wait to see what they keep bringing to us as the season goes on.

It’s time for Fall Regional and the Stage Coaches are coming! It looks like another great regional weekend in Dearborn, Michigan. We look forward to seeing many of our Sweet Adelines sisters at this event. As always, this fun weekend is the official start to another fall and winter season for Sweet Adelines choruses across the region. We wish you all a happy and successful fall and winter 2017!

A shout-out to second place winning quartet Hot Wire! Our director, Michelle St. Onge-Mitchell is their bass. We couldn’t have been more proud of this quartet at competition in April. Way to go!
We will relive our memories over and over after hosting our 2017 Region 2 competition. The Harmony Harvest Food Drive for benefit to the Salvation Army, coordinated by Queen Patti Britz-Stensaker was a huge success. I personally witnessed overflowing giant barrels, filled with donated food and sundry products for the needy. Over 1,700 pounds of food (40 boxes) were packed for recipients, with the average box weighing 35 to 40 pounds. Region 2 is blessed to have so many loving, giving members. Thanks to all who participated.

And, to our winners (we are all winners as any Sweet Adeline knows), what a glorious job you all did! Tri City was Most Improved Chorus with a 66-point increase, and Novelty Shop won the Quartet Open Division award with their Blessed Nunsense package. Division A Chorus winners Fenton Lakes (first), Heart of Essex (second) and Song of the Lakes (third) were shining and ringing, while Division AA Chorus winners London (first), Grand Harmony (second) and Grand Traverse Show (third) gave us resounding performances as well. Our first-place winners The Vibe (quartet) and Motor City Blend (chorus) really showed everyone what glorious barbershop is all about. Motor City Blend is flying so very high now, having scored the highest EVER in the region with a whopping 677 points! This really was one FANTASTIC Region 2 contest. Agreed everyone?

Pete Solomon, beloved husband of Shoreline’s Judy Solomon, passed away April 27 after losing his brave battle with cancer. All who had the honor and pleasure to know this kind, loving man are deeply saddened, and we will keep Judy in our loving arms with prayers and well wishes.

There was a party goin’ on... Yes indeed there was, at Farina’s Banquet Center in Berkley in May. Not only did we accomplish the installation of officers (our 2017-18 slate), but we ate very well, loved each other’s company and enjoyed pick-up quartets, RIOT ACT and FUSION. The entertainment was exceptional, and our installing officer, Marlene Babb (straight from Grand Rapids) a very welcome guest. I don’t know how the rest of you felt, but our coaching session with the great Jim Arns was outstanding and so productive. We kept climbing to higher plateaus and pleased ourselves, Jim and Diane. I was tuckered out Sunday but so thankful for those hours on the risers!

Welcome to Shoreline membership, young Sydney Couturier! At just 16, Syd joined our group though she has been an unofficial member since she could barely talk and walk. Also, welcome to Coleen Aben and Patty Thompson as new members!

Thanks to Renee Porzel for spending her 34th wedding anniversary with us. Coaching was incredibly HOT (no A/C) but so rewarding nonetheless!

The Orchard Lakes Fine Arts Show in West Bloomfield was a rousing success in July. About 26 Shoreline representatives worked in the blazing sunshine receiving compensation, for ticket sales and parking, for our treasury. We also received a bonus of a lovely “V Neck” sunburn thanks to our chorus tie-dye shirts!

In August, Renee and Jim were back with us, and the quest for improvement and “stellar-ness” continued. What a WOW session we had those nights! Into the last two weekends of August, and our participation at the Michigan Renaissance Festival – all was a rousing SUCCESS. A huge thank-you and HUZZAH to all our Shoreline workers and their friends for their very hard work! Time for some folks to rest and relax in Harrisville and for all of Shoreline to prepare for Fall Regional and our outgoing package.
Summer must have sprouted wings, because it seems to have just flown by! And what a wonderful summer it has been for Water Wonderland members.

Leading us into summer was the annual Installation Banquet in May where, among other things, we welcomed a new board of directors, saw our “rookie” member graduate, and revealed our 2017 S.A.L.L.Y! (Sweet Adeline Leading Lady [of the] Year), an award given to the member voted as having gone above and beyond the call to serve wherever help was needed during the preceding year.

In June, chorus members took to the stands at Cooley Law Stadium, and to the field to sing “God Bless America” during the 7th inning stretch. Friends and family came along to join in the fun, cheer on the Lugnuts at the old ball game, and as always, show their continual support for their mothers, daughters, sisters, nieces, and/or wives as we rang those good old barbershop chords, followed by the rousing cheers of the crowd! If that doesn’t get a barbershopper’s blood pumping, I don’t know what will!

In July, we were thrilled to be a part of the Okemos Community Church “Music on the Patio” summer series for the fourth time in as many years. Two days later, we had the opportunity to be a part of another summer music program, this one sponsored by the Gunnisonville United Methodist Church, sharing the evening with a blue grass band and other local musicians.

Seeing the smiles and excitement on the faces of some local “shut ins” was such a joy for us as we took our music to a few assisted living and rehabilitation centers. You never know how you may touch someone. We have seen the joy and the tears as a “certain” song touches a heart and brings back the memory of a time gone by. We often stay for a few minutes after singing to talk with the residents. They always have a memory or story - or sometimes a song of their own - to share. We are so blessed to be a part of that.

We’ve also had a few visitors this summer, including welcoming a sister Sweet Adeline from Katy, Texas as she came to sing with us at rehearsal while she was in the area visiting family. Whether at competition or at our home location, it is always fun to share stories and create music with fellow musicians.

On a more somber note, as we all mourn the loss of Joan Kienitz. It is a reminder of how quickly life circumstances can change. So please cherish the time you have with your sisters in song. We truly become like siblings, not always agreeing but always loving one another. Say a kind word, pass along some kindness because we never know what tomorrow brings.

To close out the summer, many of our members enjoyed the camaraderie of sharing, not only our music at the Labor Day Harmony Weekend in Harrisville, Michigan, but also fun, fellowship and, of course - food as we gathered around the campfire or sampled the fare at area restaurants!

Heading into fall, the Region 2 regional weekend in September is also on the agenda for many members. New music is making its way into our repertoire as we prepare for our annual “Christmas on the Road” Tour and start planning for our next show in the fall of 2018. A busy time ahead, but “that’s the way we like it, uh, huh, uh huh!”

In parting, remember to share a smile, be a blessing to someone, and keep a song in your heart. Better yet, share it in that good ol’ 4-part a cappella harmony - barbershop style!
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**2017-2018 REGIONAL COORDINATOR SUPPORT ASSIGNMENTS**

(DIRECTIONS JANNI DELLAS): NOMINATING CHAIR JOANN KRAMER; NEWSLETTER LINDA MAY • (DIRECTORS JEANNE LUNDGREN) PRG COORDINATOR LINDA LIDICOATT, MASTER; DIRECTOR SPECIALIST CHRIS NOTWARE, CERTIFIED; PAST DIRECTOR COORDINATOR LOIS KELLY • (TEAM MARY PATRICK): 25-YEAR PINS & COACHING GRANTS DIANA GREGG • (EVENTS NAT WARDIN) • REGISTRAR EDUCATION EVENTS KEANE MICHELIN; ASSISTANT REGISTRAR LOIS KELLY • CHAIR REGIONAL CONVENTION MARY PATRICK • (EDUCATION NANCY LIEDEL): DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM PEGG STARKEY; YWH PEGGY SILVER; ARRANGERS DR. DIANE CLARK; MUSIC LIBRARIAN POLLY SNIDER • (QUARTET PROMOTION) SUSAN HEIMBurger AND TRACI MARTIN • (MARKETING COORDINATOR) SUSAN CASEY • PR LIASON LINDA MAY