



NINE ON LINE



IMPORTANT DATES

2025

Oct 20-25 - International Convention
Columbus, Ohio

2026

Jan 30-Feb 1 - Winter Workshop
May 13-17 - Regional Competition
Oct 26-31 - International Convention
Columbus, Ohio

2027

Apr 15-18 - Regional Competition

Team Coordinator Corner

Congratulations to all the competitors who walked across the stage at our 2025 Regional Competition. Our Judging panel left glowing reviews and once again, Region 9 has proven our barbershop prowess to the entire International membership.

With contest complete, the RMT will be reviewing the survey results, participating in RMT training provided by International, and preparing a strategic plan for the coming years. Over the last months we have made two changes to the Financial Addendum that we are now ready to share.

First, we wanted to recognize our Past International Presidents Ann Gooch and Karen Breidert and the following announcement was sent to each of them:

Good evening, Karen and Annie,

As the Team Coordinator for Region 9 it is my distinct pleasure to inform you that the Regional Management Team has unanimously agreed to extend a special recognition to our esteemed Sweet Adelines International Past Presidents who are members of Region 9.

Effective immediately, all Past Presidents will receive complimentary registration to all Region 9 Competition and Educational events. This initiative is a heartfelt expression of our gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the success of our organization and a way to honor the enduring impact you have made throughout your service.

We deeply appreciate your leadership and dedication, and we hope this token of gratitude reflects our sincere thanks.

We are so very fortunate to have you with us here in Region 9.

Secondly, we felt it was important to address longevity awards as there has been some confusion and in our efforts to recognize everyone, we have been inconsistent. You may or may not be aware that we receive our information directly from International and sometimes the information doesn't align with member records making a task this large almost impossible to manage at the RMT level. We have decided that the best course is to align more closely with International.

Our International organization recognized 50- and 60-year members with the presentation of a pin.

Team Coordinator Corner (Cont.)

As a Region, we will be recognizing 50, 55, 60, 65 and anyone over 65 years with the presentation of a certificate and listing in the Competition Program. This information will be derived directly from information provided by the Membership team at International.

It is also our intention to recognize members at 5- year increments on a Slide Show at Winter Workshop, however, we will need for Choruses to send us this information. We will take care of our CAL members, but we depend on our choruses to track the longevity of their members below 50-years.

Gayle Burton

Master Director

Region 9 Team Coordinator

Tag, You're It!

Click [HERE](#) to watch our Noteworthy's rendition of this tag!

Superman Tag

The musical score for 'Superman Tag' is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of two systems of staves.

System 1:

- Tenor Lead:** The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4-B4. Measures 1-2 contain a half note G4 tied to a half note A4. Measures 3-4 contain a half note G4 tied to a half note A4. Measure 5 contains a quarter note G4.
- Bari Bass:** The bass line starts with a whole note G3. Measures 1-2 contain a half note G3 tied to a half note A3. Measures 3-4 contain a half note G3 tied to a half note A3. Measure 5 contains a quarter note G3.

System 2:

- Tenor Lead:** Measure 6 contains a quarter note G4. Measure 7 contains a half note A4-B4. Measure 8 contains a quarter note G4. Measure 9 contains a half note A4-B4. Measure 10 contains a quarter note G4.
- Bari Bass:** Measure 6 contains a whole note G3. Measure 7 contains a half note G3 tied to a half note A3. Measure 8 contains a quarter note G3. Measure 9 contains a half note A3-B3. Measure 10 contains a quarter note G3.

Lyrics:

If you need _____ to be loved, _____ here I am _____

Need _____ love _____ am, here I

hold my hand

am _____ to - night I'm here, to - night

50 Years of Harmony

Janet Kamrad



Where did 50 years go? When having fun, time flies. It has been a whirlwind, memorable, exciting 50 years as a Sweet Adeline! I joined Region 3 Choral Aires Chorus in 1975 when I was a baby!! Won a few Regional Blue ribbons and a few International Medals. I was honored to sing under the direction of three awesome directors: Mary LaMaster, Karen Breidert and Joan Boutiller. Oh yeah! Served on every chorus board of directors' jobs from Recording Secretary to President and more. Finally, as Region 3 Regional Management Team Communications Coordinator. Then I ...

Retired, moved to Fort Myers, FL, and joined Region 9 Spirit of the Gulf Chorus directed by Karen Breidert. Was I lucky or what! We had worked together during our Choral Aires' days and started working together again. Four months after I became a member, I was elected Team Coordinator and the whirlwind,

memorable and excitement began again with more Regional blue ribbons and International medals under the directions of these fabulous Directors, Karen Breidert, Deanna Kastler, and Michael Slamka.

"Changing Lives through Music" is Spirit's theme – The music has certainly changed my life – awesome music, great choreography, memorable performances, amazing competitions. fabulous directors and coaches, so many, many costumes, travel to so many competition states and making zillions of friends along the way.

Thank you Sweet Adelines for the opportunities for Music and Leadership education. It has been a whirlwind, exciting and memorable 50 years.

Diane Landry

I grew up in Orlando, in a barbershop family. My parents were active in their chorus' and quartets and dad taught us tags on road trips. I still love to teach a few old tags!

I joined Sweet Adelines and the Greater Orlando chorus in September 1975. I joined Sound of Sunshine a few years later. My first quartet had a tenor, bass and two baritones, me and my best friend Kay. So we took turns singing lead, often switching in the same song!

I had an opportunity to move to Chicago for work in late 1989. I was a project manager at a large insurance company. When I asked my director, Nancy Lewis, which chorus I should join, she said there were two great choruses, the Choral-Aires and the Melodeers. I joined the Melodeers in 1990. Every time I saw Nancy I thanked her, because I was able to earn seven International Championships with the Melodeers.

Over the years, I think I sang in nine or ten quartets. Two quartets, IMPACT and QUEST!, qualified to compete at International three times.

I retired at the end of COVID and moved to Lakeland in early 2022 and joined Toast of Tampa in December 2022. I'm thrilled to be singing under the direction of Tony because I'm constantly learning more about vocal production and our craft!



Chorus Connection



Wow – what a ride it's been! As the “new kids on the block” in Region 9, **Charleston Sound Chorus** is still pinching ourselves. We're just two years young, and while we're still growing (and working on building a full-blown marketing team), we've been busy performing at local venues and getting ready for contest season.

This year brought a lot of firsts – including the debut of two brand-new quartets on the contest stage! We couldn't be prouder of these fabulous foursomes for stepping into the spotlight.

But the real jaw-dropper? Coming home from the Coastal Harmony contest with **three medals!** We placed **1st in the small chorus division, 5th overall**, and snagged **Most Improved Chorus!** We're still riding that high – floating somewhere between Cloud 9 and total disbelief.

The love and support from our Region 9 family have been incredible. One of the biggest highlights was getting to sing on the Saturday night Show of Champions – what an honor to share the stage with so many amazing choruses and quartets!

We're completely inspired by **Spirit of the Gulf** and **Toast of Tampa** – your performances blew us away, and we'll be cheering loudly for you both in Columbus at International this year and next!

It was such a fun, whirlwind weekend – we made new friends, sang our hearts out, and created memories we'll never forget. We're feeling so grateful, a little giddy, and super motivated for what's next. Big hugs and high notes to all who crossed the stage!



The **Shore Notes A Cappella Chorus** was thrilled to win a second-place medal in the Small Chorus Division at Regional Competition! It was especially exciting for our three new members: Michelle Greene (tenor), Connie Eisaman (Lead) and Cindy Huber (Lead)!



Team Leader Fran Russ and Director Iris Christ accepting the award

Chorus Connection (cont.)

Of course the Shore Notes celebrated into the wee small hours of the morning! Part of the fun was awarding our Second Annual Shore Note of the Year award for 2024 to our wonderful Assistant Director, Betty Owen. She is such a valuable member of our chorus, aside from being a fabulous bass! In the photo Betty is surrounded by (left) Susan Williams (recipient of the Shore Note of the Year award for 2023) and Director Iris Christ. What a fabulous contest weekend!



What an amazing contest weekend! **Toast of Tampa Show Chorus** thanks everyone who worked hard on behalf of Coastal Harmony Region 9 to produce an incredible experience for competitors and attendees. Congratulations to all, especially new champions Spirit Of The Gulf Chorus, and Duly Noted Quartet.



On our journey to represent Region 9 at Sweet Adelines International competition this October in Columbus, OH, Toast of Tampa Show Chorus performed for evaluation, and again as outgoing 2024 Region 9 Champions, recognizing all the inspiring chorus Directors who crossed the contest stage.

Twenty-one of our members also participated in quartets, and we are incredibly proud that each competing quartet received recognition for their hard work.

Congratulations to:

- Raegan Goldman and KaleyAnna Raabe – **Duly Noted** – 1st place
- Dana Dunlevy, Carol Beckmann, Lana Owens, and Gari Brindle – **Bubbly** – 2nd place, and Platinum Award
- Tina Driscoll, Jamie Lynn Gilliam, Jess Pipkin, and Paige Miller – **Limelight** – 5th place, and Novice Quartet Award
- Ellie Borah, Amanda Pittman, Kaitlyn Cleverly, and Vanesa VanZile – **Oops! All Baris!** – Most Improved Quartet Award
- Linda Verzosa, Gay Dement, and Gloria Churchill – **AttiTunes** – Bravo Award



And singing for evaluation:

Dynasty – Sarah Lindvall

Outgoing Champions:

Radiant – Abbie Owens, Hannah Paschal, and Katie Vincent



On the Edge and Oops! All Baris!
Most Improved Quartet Award Winners

Chorus Connection (cont.)

The **Women of Note** were fired up for the Region 9 contest! In the months leading up to the contest, we had wonderful coaching from Sue and Rick Taylor, who visited twice to share their expertise and coax a more emotional sound from the chorus. We are very excited to have placed 4th overall and 3rd in the AA Division. We also want to congratulate Spirit of the Gulf, our new Region 9 Chorus Champions, and all the choruses who crossed the stage at contest!



Women of Note had three members competing with the chorus for the first time: Frances Lowe, Renee Hasak, and Barb Christoff, pictured below with Marilyn Harvie (Membership Coordinator). We know it was a memorable occasion for them!

We also played "Game On!" - a game developed by Associate Director Cindy Moeller - to encourage members to develop physical and musical habits to improve each individual's sound and performance. Sybil Echevarria and Patty Hans had the highest points and won the challenge, but every member participated and enjoyed the spirit of competition!



The chorus was also thrilled to have two competing quartets this year. Glimmer, featuring Maria Maxwell at lead, placed 6th. No Curfew with Su Hallenbeck at bass earned a 4th place medal. Congrats to both quartets!

Chorus Connection (cont.)

Wowza! It's been a busy and fulfilling couple of months!

In January, Spirit of the Gulf won the Mission Retention challenge from SAI. The category was "Baby, Come Back!" In March, we put on our Spring Show, "Harmony in Bloom". It was another successful fundraising event with basket raffles and a 50/50 drawing. Imagine how elated and humbled we were to have the winner of the 50/50 donated all of their winnings back to the chorus! We were thrilled to have Radiant (our 2024 Rising Star Champions) as our featured quartet. Radiant is simply outstanding and delightful and such a wonderful example for our other talent on the show, the Harns Marsh Barbettes! Our HERO program promotes our program to the schools with the blessing of the Lee County Fine & Performing Arts Coordinator. We had a most gracious audience. We were so appreciative that our energy poured off the stage and the audience sent it right back at us! We might be a bit crazy to put on a show right before contest but hard work pays off and what an unforgettable weekend filled with harmony, heart and sisterhood we had!



We loved this opportunity to share our love and joy with our region. With a new focus and fresh energy, we stepped on to the risers prepared, confident, focused and with open hearts thanks to the leadership of Deanna Kastler and Gina Baker (aka "our dynamic duo"). We were ready to tell these stories of love, hope and joy!

We also are so incredibly proud of our quartets that represented Spirit on stage at contest. Shout-outs to Noteworthy, Glimmer, No Curfew and Shine! An additional shout-out to, All Fired Up and Sirens for sharing their

talent on stage and we are proud that our very own Remedy will be competing in Region 5 shortly!



There is so much joy ahead and our future is bright. Spirit of the Gulf is beyond thrilled and honored to represent Region 9 on the International stage in Columbus, Ohio in 2026!

Quartet Capers

Charleston Sound Chorus is proud to introduce it's first quartet, **Put a Ring On It**. The singers are Allison Lamontagne (Lead), Rachel Lesh (Baritone), Hannah Harris (Bass), and Janet Talley (Tenor). The group formed after Allison's audition for chorus, where the foursome rang chords singing together for the first time! Over the last six months, they have discovered their strengths and weaknesses, and have worked to build and improve their own unique sound. In doing so, they have built friendships, performed locally, and grown as singers. Their goal is to share the love and beauty that God has given each one of us through music with others-that's what it's all about!



Quartet Capers (Cont.)



Bubbly Quartet popped some bubbly after being awarded 2nd place in Coastal Harmony Region 9's exciting quartet contest, with our highest score both as a quartet and as individuals. Congratulations to our friends and 2025 champions, Duly Noted Quartet for their exquisite performance!

We are also proud to have received the regional Platinum Award for the 2nd consecutive year. This award is presented to the highest scoring quartet whose members are all aged 55+. As current Sweet Adelines International Diamond Division champions, this award affirms our belief in the joy that can be had and shared through a lifetime of singing barbershop harmony!

There are so many people we would like to thank for their guidance, wisdom, and encouragement, beginning with:

- EVERYONE at Toast of Tampa Show Chorus! We cannot even begin to enumerate the many ways you've inspired us and touched our hearts, but be assured that we appreciate each and every one of you! Thank you!
- Tony DeRosa, the weekly education we receive on the risers from our Director is invaluable, and his coaching helped us to quickly and efficiently tackle musical and mental challenges. Thank you!
- Meg Mahoney, who helped us find our sound in our early days, and remains a friend and trusted, seemingly always available, fifth ear. Thank you!
- Kim Elger-Griffin, who made herself available as a fifth ear/coach when we called last minute from one of our weekend retreats, just a few miles from her home. Who does that?! A QUEEN, that's who! Thank you!
- Deanna Kastler (and Coastal Harmony Region 9), who pivoted to make Winter Workshop a success despite a last minute change of plans, that included coaching Bubbly "under glass." It was exactly the help we needed at that exact moment in time. Thank you, QUEEN!

And lastly,

- All of YOU who took a moment to comment on our performance and let us know that it meant something to you. That was our goal, unlike scores or placement, we believed that was the one thing we could control, our connection with you. "Without your love, it's a honky-tonk parade"!

We will see some of you again August 1 in Tulsa, OK when we sing our bow-out set at the Diamond Division competition and look forward to singing with Toast of Tampa Show Chorus in October at Sweet Adelines International competition in Columbus, OH.

Limelight is beyond excited to receive 5th place medals our first time on stage! We really just wanted to do our best, and we look forward to seeing how we can improve over the next year.

A little story behind how we got our name... Since half the quartet has an extensive background/career in musical theater, ALL of us have a lot of performances behind our belts, and each of us comes ALIVE on stage, we were trying to think of words that describe that performance drive in us.



Quartet Capers (Cont.)

We almost went with "Drama Queens". While we instantly nixed it because we didn't want to assume the name of Queens, we took a hot minute to stroll down the lane of silliness. We thought, hey, we could then be called "DQ" (like GQ). But DQ made us think of Dairy Queen. The thought of being called "Dairy Queens" led to envisioning black and white costumes (you know, like dairy cows?). You can imagine where that thought train took us, with udders and all...

After many weeks of hilarity in the name game, we came up with Limelight. That is what drives us. That is what feeds our souls.

Thank you, Region 9, for giving us the opportunity to stand in the limelight. You truly made our hearts sing. And thank you, Toast of Tampa. We couldn't ask for a better support system. Along with the Region's coaches, Jan Meyer (who arranged our ballad) and Jean Flinn, Toast gave us incredible coaches "along the way" - our mentor Laura Cleverly, our cheerleader Chris DeRosa, and our bestie Sarah Lindvall. Thank you all so much for getting us ready for the limelight!

Bella Quartet has been busy these past few months spreading the love - especially the love of barbershop music. In February it was OUR HONOR to be able to sing for local vets who could not make the Honor Flight to Washington, DC, but were celebrated in a local ceremony and dinner.



We shared our love songs for a church group at their Valentine's party and at an event on Fort Lauderdale Beach, but the best came on Valentine's Day - our favorite holiday - when we performed Singing Valentines for our chorus throughout the day. We have been doing this since we started singing together eight years ago and we always love it. I think our favorite this year was when we sang for a fireman at the station. We arrived to find that he had just left on a call. We took advantage of the break and went to get a bite to eat, then came back. We sang in their living area where the other fireman on shift were there to listen. Just at the end of our last song, the alarm rang and we got to watch as they slid down the pole to leave for another call. That was fun!



That afternoon, we were featured on Channel 39's "Inside South Florida". They interviewed us and then we sang a part of one of our Valentine songs on air. They told us they plan to have us back for other shows throughout the year. Next year we are hoping they will have us prior to Valentine's Day, so we might get more Singing Valentines to deliver. Click [HERE](#) to see the interview.

More recently, on April 11, which is National Barbershop Quartet Day, we performed for an assisted living complex and gave a little history lesson about barbershop music.

Although we don't compete, Bella is always working to improve our skills, and public performances really keep us on our toes. We keep pretty busy with that and LOVE every minute of it!



Blast from the Past

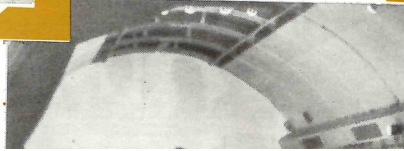
From the 1971 Autumn Pitch Pipe



We're being strapped into chopper by gunners. Note the air conditioning!

VIETNAM DIARY

By MONA WARREN



*Boarding a C-7
(Special Mission)*

In the last issue of The Pitch Pipe there was an article concerning our first USO tours. It lifted up the experiences and feelings of the first three quartets to make the 17-day tour of military hospitals in Japan, Okinawa, Philippines and Guam. In June, the *Shondells* made this same tour. Although each tour has its own unique events, the places they visited and their experiences were very similar to those described in the Summer issue.

In May, the 1969 Queens of Harmony the *Metropolitans*, became the first quartet to make a USO tour directly to Vietnam. Below are excerpts from a daily diary kept by Mona Warren. It begins with their arrival in Saigon.



May 9—Saigon

We were met, as soon as our feet hit Vietnam soil, by our escort officer, Captain Bill Harless, our driver, Jay, and Wilbur Evans, Head of USO Entertainment in Saigon—big welcome. Much confusion going through customs. It is unbearably hot! Soldiers everywhere. Mr. Evans and our escort officer (who will be with us “Every Step of the Way”) drove us to Meyercord Hotel, our billet in Saigon. What a city—pollution, people and Hondas everywhere. The hotel is surrounded by M.P.s with guns. There is barbed wire all around the building. Went to our rooms, which consist of two bedrooms and lovely lounge. There is an air conditioner in each room. We were briefed by the Captain and the hotel manager, Tom Montgomery. Our escort officer is not to leave our sides—he carries a gun at all times. We went through our itinerary—whew! First show tomorrow at the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon. We boarded a military van (it’s so hot) and drove to USO Headquarters in Saigon. Had a Vietnamese seamstress measure us for *Ao Dais* (pronounced ow yai), original Vietnam dresses. Our hotel is one block from President Thieu’s Palace (soldiers in bunkers, guns everywhere, barbed wire all around). Today is Buddha’s birthday. Lori had abscess from her Tetanus shot and I cut two fingers opening a can of potato chips. Since the water is unpotable there is a strong chance of infection, so we went to a hospital to have our wounds attended. I can’t wash that hand?? This place is so badly polluted with noise, smog and people! It’s a miracle half the population hasn’t been killed crossing the street. There were soldiers (V.N.) with rifles eyeing us in the restaurant. Their expressions are wary—many “round eyes” (that’s us) in restaurant. Walked back to hotel—curfew at 10:00 p.m.—you are liable to get shot on the streets after that hour.



May 10—Saigon

This is it—our first shows today! Rehearsed for about 1½ hours. Had three performances at 3rd Field Hospital. It went very well and I felt good about it. Very informal atmosphere and then we talked with the men. Some wanted to talk at length, others hardly at all. We enjoyed it—most rewarding. I felt very depressed and uneasy before we sang—now I feel good about it all! We were worried about how they would react to our type of music—we shouldn’t have.



May 11—Bear Cat

Picked up at Tan So Nhut. What a thrilling ride in an open

chopper. The gunner sat behind me, loaded and ready! About a 20 minute flight to Bear Cat. Did a 40 minute show for the 222nd Airborne Division. Rapped with the fellows, a young bunch of Rangers. Twelve of them received the Purple Heart last week. Most wanted desperately to talk—we are the first round-eyes they have seen in quite a spell. Monsoon hit, so we sang casually around the tables under a shelter. Found out we were grounded—Saigon socked in—terrible storm (???). I think they just wouldn’t fly us back in the dark—too dangerous! That’s when “Charlie” comes out of hiding. Diana Dell, USO Photographer, was on the trip with us to take pictures of our total performance. We were billeted in pilots quarters. Artillery fire (called “incomings” and “outgoings,” depending on which they were) all night. Reverberates your soul—very scared. Also learned about white, grey, yellow and RED alerts (in order of importance)—we were also instructed how to place our body between the mattress for “incoming” shells. A very frightening night—thank goodness all the mortars were “outgoing”—so we were told anyway!



May 12—Bear Cat, Saigon, Long Binh and Tay Ninh

Flew by chopper to Saigon. Arrived at hotel, showered and off again to Long Binh by dirty, bumpy old van—so glad to get out of Saigon. Long Binh is a huge place. Sang an hour after arrival at Pacesetter Service Club—went well again, but the fellows here are more lethargic than others. Rapped awhile then had to change and board another chopper for Tay Ninh which is 3 miles from Cambodian border. Lots of action at this firebase. Everywhere bunkers and big guns. Did an evening performance, even had a halfway decent stage. Received a standing ovation—what a thrill! Such young faces loving our music! They can’t understand why we would want to come to Vietnam—too dangerous they said. I replied that the reason we were here was just that we wanted to come! Once again we couldn’t get out—spent the night in the dispensary—on blood spattered sheets! This installation is very dirty—but this is a war zone and where the action is! Met Pfc. Otis Izzapig. This pig weighs 300 lbs. and lives with “Doc” Ed Artis. Otis does tricks, chews gum and chases girls—he even barked at us—didn’t like us very much. Had one hour of sleep—mortar fire all night—everything shaking—we’re really in it! Morale very high. These people are great. The humor they find in the way they have to live is fantastic.



May 13—Saigon and Qui Nhon

Flew back to Saigon via chopper—at least it was cool in the air! Arrived at hotel, showered and packed it all up—we’ll be gone for seven days. Drove to Tan Son Nhut, boarded C-130 Hercules (big military transport plane). Pilot asked Lori and I to sit in cockpit—what a thrill. Lori donned a pair of earphones and went on the loudspeaker to GIs in plane and explained ditching procedures. They cracked up at Lori’s announcement that she and I were their stewardesses. Landed at Qui Nhon, a beautiful place right on the China Sea. Our hotel sits on the water—cloistered by barbed wire. This is a MACV (Military Assistance Command Vietnam) Compound. In preparing for show that night Marie came up with a brilliant idea—she put her makeup on in the refrigerator! Performed at Flickshack Quincy Compound that evening—went well—good audience—especially when a rat gave us some kind of ovation by running on the stage between us—did we scatter fast! Got a few laughs anyway. Had to see a doctor, finger infected—he gave me antibiotics. In our room

we had to spray for bugs and sprinkle talcum powder on the sheets. For some reason they say it keeps the roaches and bugs off the “bod”—I think it is to make the sheets look whiter! Sudden realization that I am no longer frightened—from now on I take whatever happens.



May 14—Cam Ranh Bay

Happy Birthday, Pat! We boarded a C-123 Transport for Cam Ranh Bay. This is the biggest installation we’ve seen so far. Our billet is two trailers—very nice accommodations and our bunkers right outside the front door. We are affectionately referred to as “Bunker Bunnies.” The scenery is beautiful—reminds me of Northern Michigan. It’s hard to imagine that this is a war zone—it’s so peaceful looking. Performed at 4:00 p.m. for Red Horse Civil Engineer Squadron AF—one of our best performances and extremely well received. The Air Force pinned each of us with their squadron medal. I believe nearly all the great people from “The World” are over here! Performed again at 7:00 p.m. at Herky Hill AFB. Our show went well again except for a few mortars and flares that kept lighting up the sky. As we were leaving, a truck loaded with GIs and German Shepherds came rolling in from a patrol mission. They were still sitting in the back of the truck and wanted to hear a song. As we started to belt one out the dogs began their serenade also—we found a group that didn’t particularly like our sound! Pilots gave a birthday party for Pat and cooked a good old U.S. meal. A Major (and ex-barbershopper from New York) brought out his guitar and we sang and sang and sang! It’s not everyone who celebrates a birthday in Nam.



May 15—Cam Ranh Bay and Ba Ngoi

Well, it happened! I feel awful, but I gallantly dressed for our 2:00 performance on USO Showmobile for the Army Unit at Cam Ranh. We drove over there and just before showtime decided I couldn’t make it. They insisted I see a doctor and he gave me some medication and sent me to bed for two days. We had another scheduled performance at Ba Ngoi (a MACV Advisory Compound) about 12 miles from Cam Ranh. Called to cancel and they were, needless to say, extremely disappointed. It seems that the men had gone to a great deal of work for us, even to the point of “borrowing” the General’s tables and chairs, built a special stage for us from parachutes, and planned a very fancy dinner. “But three of us don’t a barbershop quartet make!” Well . . . the three of them bravely drove over to Ba Ngoi and put on a fantastic show from all reports. They even found a piano player from the Army and had him put his piano on a truck and away they all went. I ended up with a babysitter—we were never allowed to be alone!



May 16—Ba Ngoi

Our one day of rest, and I awoke determined that I was feeling fine, so our drivers took us to Ba Ngoi, where the team had planned a boat ride in a Vietnamese Patrol Boat and a picnic on the beach of an island in the vicinity. About 30 people took part in the excursion. What a beautiful day we had with the Vietnamese. It took us about 1½ hours to arrive at Bimhba Island for our picnic. We swam in the South China Sea. I swam out to a Vietnam fishing boat, barely making it, grabbed onto the sides and pulled myself up only to look into six brown eyes. There were three little boys sitting

in it—they stared at me and said, “No, no!” So I decided to get out of there in a hurry. We were getting terribly burned and after a couple of hours on the beach headed back for Ba Ngoi. We passed “Charlie Island”—the one place that the troops can’t secure. This is where the Viet Cong have a stronghold and launch their mortars into Cam Ranh Bay. We were so close I could have waded to shore—thank goodness they only come out at night!



May 17—Ba Ngoi and Da Nang

Left by jeep in the morning for Cam Ranh Bay where we were to catch a transport for Da Nang. We were detained in D.V. lounge for about three hours—seems our plane had a missing part. Arrived in Da Nang two hours late for our first performance. They hustled us to the 4/31st Infantry Hospital and we performed “as we were”—another first! They loved it though. We rapped with the fellows for just a short time as we had another show to do. A chopper picked us up outside the hospital and flew us to China Beach (about ten miles away) where we had a show to do for the 58th Transportation Battalion (Air Force Pilots). Had nice quarters here—cleanest sheets I’ve seen so far. The Captain (whose “hootch” we had taken over) even hung clothes lines for us so that we could wash a few things. This is probably our best nights rest so far. Think we were ready for it too.



May 18—Da Nang

Left at 8:00 a.m. via surface transportation—drove to another base in Da Nang where we performed for the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing Dispensary (most of these kids coming off drugs)—pitiful! We did an impromptu show at the NCO Club in Da Nang at noon. Then went to 95th Evacuation Hospital where we did two shows. The first one was taped before a live audience for an upcoming Bob Hope TV Special to be shown in the fall. The taping went extremely well—they taped two songs, “Dream” and “Please Mr. Columbus.” Afterward the photographers followed us around the ward and took informal shots of us talking with the patients. Lori had to see a dentist—a filling came out. Had dinner on base and were driven to airport—flew to Saigon.



May 19—Chau Doc

Had a quickie breakfast and drove to Tan Son Nhut Airport—on our way to Chau Doc, a MACV Advisory Compound, ½ mile from Cambodian Border in the Delta area. At Chau Doc we were taken to Cord Headquarters (hotel??)—no air conditioning—this place hotter yet. Very buggy—rooms quite dirty. Our performance isn’t until tonight so our security officer arranged a jeep caravan into the mountains and the village of Nui San. Vietnamese Sgt. Bong our driver and interpreter. Went to Buddhist Temple, which was surrounded by extremely sick people—as it was the last day of Buddha’s birthday they expected to be cured. In Nui San there were thousands and thousands of people. Saw rice paddies and farms. Went back to compound and performed for an extremely good audience, but we have very tired voices. They didn’t seem to know the difference. In our room I found my bed loaded with red ants (Lori and her M & Ms), then we heard a shriek from the other room and dashed out to find Pat and Marie battling giant cockroaches and lizzards! The men heard all the commotion and came running with the spray can—such a scene. It took a while to calm down and catch some zzzzzs.

May 20—Chau Doc and Vinh Long

Lori and I up and ready for whatever. We don't want to miss a thing! Colonel Charles Reding, Senior Advisor, took us via jeep to a Vietnamese sidewalk cafe for V.N. coffee (reminded me of espresso). When we arrived the place was vacant and just a few minutes later the place was packed. A group of children started gathering around—staring. Lori sang “Mary Had a Little Lamb” for them. The number of children grew as she sang and they had the most adoring looks on their faces—they loved it! Another first I'm sure. From there Col. Reding took us to the Vietnamese Compound (this is where the advisors work with the Vietnamese in areas of Education, Health, Agriculture and Military). We met Major Nam, Chief Officer of the Compound. We toured the dispensary, mess hall, billets, offices and briefing room. I asked the Major if I could take a picture of the briefing room. He was more than happy to comply and posed with the V.N. and U.S. Advisors—another first. All the Vietnamese soldiers were very proud of their compound and extremely pleased that we were interested in them. The Major expressed his gratitude through the interpreter for our visit and I complied. Picked up Pat and Marie and had lunch at mess. We sang “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” to Major Wood as we were traveling in his jeep—he was so impressed that he is going to name it just that. Col. Reding took us to the U.S. Briefing Room (top secret) and explained the complete Advisory Team set-up. Naturally weren't allowed to take pictures or look at anything classified top secret. Our chopper arrived and took us to Vinh Long where we performed for the Military Police Battalion, Company B. Show went well again—very receptive audience. Lori beginning to lose voice, but she managed fine. Another performance at 8:00 p.m.—the Airfield at Vinh Long. We had a stage outdoors—good audience until we were attacked by mammoth crickets (or whatever they were). One landed in my hair and I couldn't get it until Lori came to my assistance. Meanwhile pandemonium broke out—always leave them laughing!!!



May 21—Vinh Long and Tra Vinh

Left Vinh Long via chopper and arrived in Tra Vinh early in afternoon. Wild chopper flight—about 1 hour—the biggest chopper we have traveled on yet and we had to sit on the sides. Met at Tra Vinh by security officer and wildly driven (by a Vietnamese) into Compound. We relaxed all afternoon. Had two performances scheduled, but they decided to make it all in one. It was a good thing as Lori's voice is in bad shape—trying to keep her quiet all day was a major task—many notes written. Performance at 8:00 p.m. for MACV Team 72 (Delta) held outside—nice stage. Once again Lori managed to hold it all together and we were a hit. Heavy ground fighting just ½ mile from here. Many “outgoings” (we hope) all night long.



May 22—Tra Vinh, Can Tho and Binh Thuy

Left Tra Vinh via chopper. Our last show coming up! We are extremely tired but with a wonderful feeling. Rode via transport truck to 3rd Surgical Hospital. This is the hottest place so far—the southern Delta. We were video taped again (the complete show) by official photographers from Washington for the historical records to be placed in Congressional files. Visited in several wards. Left at 4:00 p.m. to catch flight back to Saigon. Rode in ambulance this time—as we stopped at check point, the M.P.s looked in the back of ambulance and were completely stunned when we broke into, “Hey Look Us Over.” Flight to Saigon is wildest yet. Saigon so much cooler than the Delta. Drove to Meyercord. Rode in Viet-

namese taxi to go eat. They look like little wind-up toy cars. You pay the driver whatever you want. Excellent food—we walked back to hotel, which we realized the next day was very foolish (at least a mile and late at night).



May 23—Saigon

Slept until 10:00 a.m.—heaven! Tom Montgomery took us to USO Headquarters. Do our first shopping and pick up our *Ao Dais* and a few other things. Arrived back at hotel—had debriefing session with Major Gamble, then on to MACV Headquarters for another debriefing with Colonel Borders. We chatted about our tour and he then presented us with plaques of appreciation from General Abrams—very impressive. Had pictures taken. Wilbur Evans took us out for dinner at USAID restaurant—wore our V.N. dresses. The Vietnamese loved us in them. Had a “Going Back to the World Party” at the hotel with all the other escort officers. Sad to leave. We called several places we had been to say goodbye. Ba Gnoi had a mortar attack a few days ago—lost several of their best men. (We were all together on the boat trip.) Tra Vinh also had a bad mortar attack the day after we left. Guess God has been on our side all the way as we've been very lucky.



May 24—Saigon

Leaving Saigon at 1:45 p.m. Feeling depressed about leaving—it will be difficult to settle back into a normal life pattern again. Bill and Mr. Evans drove us to the airport. Went through customs and got our P's and M.C.s exchanged into good old greenbacks! As we lifted off the Vietnam ground everyone on board clapped and yelled. A much noisier trip going back than coming over. We stopped at Yokota AFB, Japan—had a couple of hours layover and did a little shopping. Nine hours to the World! Can't wait to wash my hair. Arrived at Travis AFB at approximately 3:00 p.m.—we were chauffeured to San Francisco International Airport where our families met us.



May 25—Home (Reflections)

The unreality of being back in the world is overwhelming. Everything seems to be so unimportant now—hope I will be able to adjust soon. Read where Cam Ranh was mortared again—hope nobody was hurt. Funny thing, before our trip to Vietnam I couldn't bear to read anything about the war—now, that's all that interests me. It is still hard to get a clear picture in my mind of all that has happened. This experience has been the richest of my life. Although it was hectic and exhausting, the pure excitement of everything kept us going and for the most part things went smoothly. The sights and sounds I've seen and heard cannot possibly be recorded but they won't be forgotten. Pat's summary of our tour is an apt description she said she felt as though we had just walked into a newsreel!

The following comment was written on a report after a show we did in Da Nang:

“A professional group presenting the total grace and charm that represents to everyone privileged to hear, that which is home. A talented group that brings memories of all that is precious and far away. One of, if not the finest moments of entertainment that has come our way!”

That's worth it all!!!





DEDICATED DIRECTORS

**An interview by Faye McLanahan,
with "Dedicated Director"
Lisa Williams, ACappella Bay Show Chorus**

Faye: HEY LISA. How Long have you been a member of Sweet Adelines?
I have been a Sweet Adeline since 1997. Wow 27 years!

Awesome! Are you in a quartet?

Yes. since 2008, I proudly sing Bass in Ladybug Quartet. Our Quartet is blessed with four members who are actual musicians with many skills. There have been a few Quartets through the years (Sensation, Twilite Zone) that I have sung Lead or Baritone but, never, ever Tenor! God bless all you Tenors out there!

Tell me about becoming a Director?

Becoming a Director was an amazing experience! Region 9 is filled with some Top-Notch barbershop talent, and I have learned so much from other directors, performers, and mentors. Sweet Adelines also had a Director's mentor program, which, for me, began at an International Education Seminar in San Antonio way back in either 2004 or 2005, Time Flies! I finished my Directors Certification there and began my journey learning from many more Talented Directors throughout the organization.

Lisa, What do you enjoy about directing and how has directing impacted your life and your family life?

Learning something new with every rehearsal through interaction with our chorus members, who actually feel like family. The camaraderie and fun we have, as I share what I have learned as either a musician or a Sweet Adeline (or both) has continued my education in this wonderful organization.

I am blessed to have the region try their best to accommodate my handicap. A Cappella Bay has been awesome about it and being disabled will not stop me from continuing to be a part of the singing/directing I love so much. After last year's contest, a member (also in a wheelchair) approached me and said that she thought her singing days were over, but when she saw me up there in a wheelchair, it brought her hope. It doesn't feel any better than that!

As with us all, I am still trying to find the balance between God, family and barbershop. I try not to take things personally anymore and have accepted that it is "ok" to not be the Best or the Winner. The life experience, treating people with kindness and respect are what are important. Some things I have out-grown (we all have those, "I wish I hadn't done that" moment!) and we can't take those medals with us in our next lives.

My family is supportive and encouraging, singing with my sister has been a great mending of our relationship. With two wonderful nephews who are my helpers, my daughter, Cassi, and grandson, Alto, lovingly called "Meatball," live in Yokohama, Japan, (14 hours ahead) and I am blessed that there is the technology to video call them at least 4+ times a week.

Any other highlights Lisa?

If I went through all that I have experienced in my life that has molded me to who I am today, this article would be a book. (I am sure we can all say the same thing)

Any advice to upcoming Directors?

So, maybe you are interested in being a director some day? Just tell your director from your chorus that you are interested. They can guide you and start you on the path to one of the best and exciting challenges in your life. You won't be alone because you will have the support from everyone in Region 9, and Sweet Adelines International. You can do it!

Thank you, Faye for inviting me to interview for this article! Hopefully members will be encouraged to also be leaders or become directors one day.

With much love, Lisa Williams- Director: ACappella Bay Show Chorus

Thank you, Lisa for being a Dedicated Director and a friend to ALL!

Unsung Heroes of Region 9



Jan Meyer, the Region 9 Arranger Certification Program (ACP) Coordinator serves under the direction of the Regional Education Coordinator. She is responsible for administering the Beginner Level of the ACP and to develop classes to help ACP participants succeed.

The Beginner Level consists of nine modules covering skills in arranging music in the barbershop style. It is designed to be self-taught, but Jan is happy to mentor our participants, answer questions, and develop additional music arranging exercises.

When a participant is ready to take a module test, we generally meet via Zoom. Jan reports test results ASAP to the participant and to the SAI Education Department.

We offer classes on music theory and barbershop style arranging at Region 9's annual Winter Workshop, and those are open to all members, not just those enrolled in the ACP. Certified Music Arranger Jean Flinn actively supports the Region 9 arranger training program, offering one-on-one reviews of arrangements and sharing the teaching duties. The Jan and Jean have also offered classes via Zoom at times.

Jan says that the best part of her job is watching our members learn what makes music work and how to create a barbershop arrangement. It's a delight to see the light bulbs in the brain light up when someone learns a new concept or skill. Our program has already resulted in two new Approved Music Arrangers in our region—Kimberly Heilbrun and Donna Martin. Who will be the next AMA? Will it be you?

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