

ACJC Report – April 2013

As we prepare for our AC&C in Leominster, MA, I'm reflecting on the 5 contests I've overseen as ACJC, and want to share some thoughts with you.

Without exception, the effort and energy exhibited by the respective hostess chapters was/has been exemplary – I've been so impressed by the absolute devotion of each and every one of these chapters to do their best to produce as successful an event as possible for the benefit of the Area.

Did you know? The thing that really stands out for me is the relative "newbie" status of 4 of the past 5 hostess chapters:

2009 - Silk'n Sounds (1st time ever)
2010 – Harmony Heritage (seasoned veterans)
2011 – New England Voices in Harmony (1st time ever)
2012 – Montreal City Voices (last hosted 2004)
2013 – Women of Note (last hosted 1993)

Why is that important? Because with limited or no prior experience, the job of hosting an AC&C is increasingly more difficult than it is for chapters that have experience. And there's a much greater burden on the ACJC as a result, since the ACJC is the only common thread from one AC&C to the next.

Please be clear, I'm not saying this to get sympathy – I'm saying this because it's important that everyone understand that it's not the responsibility of the hostess chapter, or the ACJC, to ensure a successful AC&C. It's the responsibility of the Area.

There is currently a movement (a study and review committee) looking to implement an AC&C Team model in Area 2 (similar to what is used in Area 3 and Area 6), and I couldn't be more in favor of this initiative. As I said before, one of the most difficult aspects of the ACJC position under our current model is that, from year to year, the ACJC is the "go-to" person for information (and I'm not just talking about contest related information). Under the AC&C Team model, the knowledge and workload is spread out over various positions/people, and the demands on a hostess chapter are really reduced – basically to "boots on the ground" volunteerism during the actual event weekend. Through more involvement on the part of more people during the planning stages, the Area becomes more responsible for its major annual event and, in my opinion, everybody wins as a result. I encourage each of you to support the creation and implementation of the AC&C Team, and to sell its idea to your members by encouraging them to get involved.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts, and for allowing me to serve as your Area Contest and Judging Chairman the past 5 years. It has been an honor and a privilege that I'll always remember.

In harmony,

Tricia Harris
Area 2 C&J Chairman