

NEW ENGLAND VOICES IN HARMONY ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2012 - MARCH 2013

Submitted by KATE STEER, President

Singing and Music

Contests

The year began attending AC&C in Montreal. We had 36 members on stage and placed second with our contest package of *Let Yourself Go* and *Shall We Dance Medley*, qualifying for International with an average score of 71.1. We had three quartets with at least one chapter member compete (Moonstruck, Kismet, and The Young and the Rest of Us), two of whom qualified for Internationals. In addition, The Young and the Rest of Us won the Area 2 Novice Quartet award. A fourth chapter quartet, Sister Act, competed out of Area, also qualifying for Internationals.

In November we traveled to Orlando, FL for IC&C. Between visits to Mickey, we managed a little singing. We had 37 women on stage to repeat our AC&C package and placed fifth with an average score of 76.2. For the quartet contest, Sister Act placed eleventh and mike-tested for the Quartet Finals where Moonstruck was thrilled to place fifth.

Performances

We had nine external performances during the past year. Locations included the Dunstable, MA tree-lighting ceremony, the Huntington, Westford House and Ledgewood Bay communities as well as at the Baptist Church Women's Fellowship event. As in past years, we sang at the Nashua Holiday Stroll (a donated performance) and as guests of the Granite Statesmen at their annual Holiday Cabaret. We also had our own holiday show in December in conjunction with a silent auction. The house was packed and we had a ball sharing our holiday repertoire (and some yummy desserts) with our families and friends.

Excellence Training Weekend

Our annual retreat was held at the Espousal Center in Waltham, MA. David Calland was our coach again this year.

Music and Coaching

We learned five new songs this year: *Somewhere*, *Harmony*, *One Voice*, and our two new contest songs: *Something about a Soldier* and *Baby's Prayer at Twilight*. We had coaching on twelve rehearsal nights from Steve Tramack, Linda Janes, Jim Coates and Liane Iannuzzo. We worked particularly hard on improving our skills for singing swing songs.

Quartets

The 10th annual Quartet Showcase hosted by New England Voices in Harmony was held on August 2nd at Grace Lutheran Church. We had 15 quartets come to perform, representing Harmony, Inc., Sweet Adelines and the men's Barbershop Harmony

Society. Barbara-Ann MacIntosh traveled from Rhode Island to emcee. In addition, we have established a chapter VLQ to broaden performance possibilities.

Membership

The chapter is now 13 years old. We currently have 51 members, ten of whom are Fifth Voice. We gained two new members this year: Ellie Robbins and Carol Reznick. One member, Kari-Lynn Knight, has moved temporarily to 5th Voice but plans to return to full membership in the fall timeframe. We lost two 5th Voice members, Mary-Ellen Reed and Kate Leonas, due to their other obligations.

Budget / Financials

The chapter remains financially solvent. We will end the year with some accounts over-spent and others under, but overall in the black. Our Angel Fund, sponsored by the generous donations from members and friends throughout the year, continues to help members attend special chapter events.

Fundraising.

We continue to sell our holiday CD. Scrip continues to be our best fundraiser, making the chapter approximately \$1200. Terri-Lynn nuts are also a good fundraiser for us. A percentage of the profits from Scrip and all the profits from individual sales of Terri-Lynn products go into individual member education accounts. We had a successful lottery ticket raffle in conjunction with our Holiday Show and earned a small amount from Singing Valentines. Our last fundraiser of the year is "Flower Power", selling bulbs and plants in person and on-line.

Other Achievements/Events

We attended an interchapter social hosted by Women of Note in July.

Our holiday party was held at Molly Sillich's house, with a pot luck dinner and time to hang out and play games. We also brought in food to donate to two food pantries.

The Area 2 flash-mob scheduled for February had to be postponed due to weather.

We are maintaining a "lending library" with tapes and DVDs of past contests and performances.

Our website continues to be a useful link to the electronic world, along with our Facebook page for posting more casual information.

We ordered new business cards and postcards to distribute at various events.