

BARRE-TONES, INC. BARRE, VERMONT
CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT
4/1/12-3/31/13

The Barre-Tones have had another year of tremendous growth, both musically and in terms of membership. The membership and PR Committees are still working diligently on the FYV project and we have increased the chorus by 11 this year bringing us to 56 members. The Barre-Tones was honored to receive the Area 2 Achievement Award at the 2012 AC&C.

The Barre-Tones host a 'guest night' several times each year and also invite women to sing with the chorus for the holiday show. We also encourage members to invite women they think would enjoy singing with the chorus to any rehearsal; notices in the calendar sections of several local papers also reflect this invitation. All of these approaches have brought us new members. In addition, PR in the form of our website, media, and unabashed lobbying at performances has resulted in attracting women to the chorus.

Carol Hollenbeck is our director; Lisa Parro and Jane Watson are assistant directors. The chorus has two registered quartets, Stay Tuned and In Cahoots, and encourages the formation and development of small groups and quartets. The RALI Singers (Retired And Loving It...a group of women within the chorus who can do daytime singouts); Group du Jour, a sextet; and Forward Motion, a quartet, are current examples of these. Additional pick-up quartets are encouraged and usually perform at the Annual Show and the Holiday show.

This year's Annual Show, "Vermont is Where You Find It," was a big success and featured the 2011 Harmony Queens "Foreign Exchange" as our guest quartet. Local actor and comedian, George Woodard was ably assisted by Karl Klein (husband Barre-Tones bass section leader and member of In-Cahoots of Susan Klein) as emcees/actors who helped move the story-line, filled with local humor, along.

The chorus had a wonderful time at IC&C in Orlando and was very pleased with its scores, especially the singing ones, which indicated that our constant work to improve is paying off. In addition to weekly rehearsals, the chorus held two full-day retreats with coaching by Debbie Borsari and Larry Bean of Nexxt Level. The fact that many chorus members scheduled private vocal instruction with Debbie and Larry around these retreats is indicative of the chorus members' commitment to constant improvement. The chorus always looks forward to spending time with Debbie and Larry and deeply appreciate their invaluable coaching and encouragement.

Two back-to-back Holiday Shows with the Green Mountain Chorus and the Barre-Town School Girls' Chorus joining us were very well-attended. In addition to our Annual and Holiday Shows, the chorus and quartets did several paid performances as well as community service performances including for Flag Day, a Mountaineers game, Illumination Night at Vermont College of Fine Arts, and the Barre Heritage Festival. There were also performances by the chorus, quartets, and small groups at other service organizations events and nursing facilities.

Our two registered quartets and a couple of pick-up quartets delivered 57 Singing Valentines this year. Other fund raisers included selling "Buddy Badges" at the unique July 4th parade in Warren, a dinner performance and silent auction, the annual yard sale, and selling ads for the Annual Show program.

The Barre-Tones continues its long tradition of offering women who love to sing a close-knit, hardworking, and fun opportunity to be part of the amazing community of Barbershop.