

# ANOTHER HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## 1994

THE 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our humble beginnings, 1994, proved to be a year of celebration for past accomplishments and for anticipated future endeavors. While some existing programs operated flawlessly, others were gently sparked with refreshingly-new ideas. The anticipation of programs and policy changes yet to come piqued our curiosity, and generated a renewed spirit.

A new program, "Operation Leadership," was developed to help our chapters determine their leadership needs and, following analysis of administered survey results, to help implement change if the chapters so desired. The monthly Corporate Mailings sported a new newsletter format which resulted in savings of paper and postage costs. Revisions to the Nominating Committee added six Area designees to the three Nominating Committee members elected at the annual Delegates Meeting. All nine individuals would work toward recruiting qualified candidates throughout the organization, encouraging their nomination for election to the International Board of Directors.

Jeanne O'Connor (Director of the VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS) received an invitation from the World Harmony Council's Chairman to direct a session of community singing on the World Harmony Jamboree at the Society's International Convention in Pittsburgh. Harmony, Inc. was proud that this honor had been afforded one of its Directors, as no woman had previously served the role of a song leader at a S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. Convention. On this same program, our 1992 Chorus Champions, CHAMPLAIN ECHOES, thoroughly entertained the enthusiastic audience and shared the stage with quartets and choruses from around the world. The 1993 Harmony Queens, SPECTRUM, sang for the pre-Jamboree Reception

crowd. All of our Champs represented us well in their respective performances.

Previously, the number of qualifying positions for the International Chorus Contest was based on a somewhat confusing formula determined by the percentage of members who attended the Area Contests (i.e., the greater the percentage of the whole number of chapters, the more qualifying positions allotted). Different rules regulated quartets. To participate in an International Quartet Contest, a quartet had to have competed in at least one of the two preceding Area Quartet Contests. There were no positions allotted for quartets - all who entered the Area Contests were eligible to continue on to the International Contest.

Starting with the 1994 AC&Cs, contestants would need to achieve a minimum score at the Area level to qualify for participation in that year's International Contest. In other words, all choruses and quartets that earned the designated minimum score or better at their AC&C, would be eligible for the following International Contest. The change would remove competition at the Area level for earning a qualifying position. These new qualification requirements also meant that quartets would need to participate each year in the AC&C to qualify for International.

To ensure that all Areas would be represented at International, each Area's highest-scoring chorus and quartet would automatically be eligible, regardless of the score. The International Contest & Judging Committee would strive to have approximately 25 contestants in each of the Quartet and Chorus International Contests. The Committee would establish the minimum qualifying score for the following year's round of qualifying AC&Cs annually at its fall meeting.

Along with Harmony, Inc.'s adoption of the Society's new contest judging categories came extensive planning and procedural adjustments to ensure a smooth transition from the former categories to the new ones. Area Convention & Contests had two double panels, as did the International Convention & Contests (one in the old categories to determine contest results, the other in the new categories). The new category panel members at these Conventions conducted craft classes and evaluation sessions to help familiarize our members with the new system that would take effect the following year. The participation of the new category panel members also provided additional data for the International Contest & Judging Committee to set the level for the qualifying scores for the 1995 contests.

Other long-term procedural changes which took place at this time included requiring double panels to serve at future AC&Cs and triple panels at future International Convention & Contests. Analysis & Recommendation sessions (A&Rs) were replaced with Evaluation Sessions (20-minute minimum coaching format at the Area level, 10-minute minimum A&R format at International). Policy was changed that had previously required the International Contest & Judging Committee to recommend to the International Board certification of Candidate Judges. Now the ICJ Committee would have authority to approve certifications.

Chorus 10-minute on-stage rehearsal times at International Contest were replaced with two half-hour stage-viewing periods by up to six representatives of each competing chorus. (Four years later, similar quartet on-stage rehearsal times would follow suit and be replaced with a viewing period for all competing quartets.)

Research of historical records found that 201 members had contributed 917 years of service to our organization. At the Annual Membership Meeting, individuals who had served Harmony, Inc. for ten or more years (in five-year increments) received Recognition of Service awards. The efforts of these ladies were duly noted and applauded. Upon her announcement of retiring from the position of International Contest & Judging Chairman (a position she held for 21 years), Barbara-Ann MacIntosh received an engraved silver tray and accompanying heartfelt thanks for her incomparable 25 years of service to the organization.

With the former judging categories being retired at the closing of the 1994 International Convention, the Annual Membership Meeting was an ideal time to recognize and extend our appreciation to 27 Certified Judges for their service in educating and adjudicating the membership over the years. Also at this meeting, six Harmony, Inc. members earning Judges' Certification in the new categories were presented Judge pins and identification badges: Sandra Dunlop, Jacquie Jensen and Donna Johnson in the Contest Administrator category; Linda Janes, Joan Ross and Debra Stoll in Presentation. (Note - the Contest Administrator category has since been renamed the Chairman of Judges category.)

Additional noteworthy activities of this 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year included the establishment of a new student dues schedule where students (23 years old and under) would pay half of the Regular Membership dues. An Autism scholarship fund (titled Music Therapy Scholarship) was established to be granted annually to two undergraduate students - one American applicant and one Canadian applicant - who work with autistic individuals in the field of Music Therapy. The Convention Coordinator appointed Karen Gungel (of VVCs) to the new position of Convention Registrar, responsible for providing nametags and managing the registration database for all International Conventions. The World Harmony Council appointed Lauren Lindeman to serve as a liaison to

represent all women groups in the WHC (Harmony, Inc., LABBS, Holland Harmony and Sweet Adelines International). An invitation was received from LABBS to send two choruses and two quartets to participate in their 1996 Convention in Cardiff, Wales.



*Lauren Lindeman, 1994-1996  
International President.*

THE HARMONETTES Chapter (North Attleboro, Massachusetts) invited us to "Come to the Carousel" and welcomed Harmony, Inc. to Providence, Rhode Island - "back to where it all began" in 1959 - for the 35<sup>th</sup> International Convention and Contests. Anne, Becky, Lana and Donna, also known as SOUNDWAVE (of newly-chartered Crystal Chords Chapter) had a "merry go-round" in the Quartet Contest, and were named

our 1994 Harmony Queens. Meanwhile, another newly-formed chapter, PRIDE OF NIAGARA (Regional Municipality of Niagara, Ontario), in its first International Chorus Contest, took First-Place honors, along with the G. Ruth Geils Memorial Award. By winning the Contest, their talented Director, Linda Hilko-Baker (in her International Contest directing debut), was awarded the Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award and the Bob Turcotte Memorial Award. How's that for "grabbing the gold ring" on the carousel ride?

To date, Area 2 had consisted of chapters in Quebec, southeastern Ontario, and northeastern states while servicing chapters in the "expansion areas" of the southeastern states. Five chapters in the state of Florida were now chartered, and there were additional prospective chapters in the South. With special thanks to International President and Florida resident Aura Daye for her patience, knowledge and encouragement, and with gratitude to Area 2 for their sisterly love, Area 6 was ratified by the International Board as a new Area of Harmony, Inc. and set off to soar on its own!

Yes, the year of our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was filled with memorable happenings, not the least of which included the establishment of a marketing strategy to help the whole world learn of our musical joy, share in our blend with friendship, and "Discover Harmony!"



*1994 Harmony Queens, SOUNDWAVE, Corning, New York, (left to right) Anne Leinen, bari; Becky LaBella, lead; Lana Held, bass; Donna McKay, tenor.*