



## SINGING AND SPRINGING INTO SUMMER

by Elaine Martin

Our chorus has been crazy busy this quarter! Take a look!

April: We sang the National Anthem at the Muskegon Lumberjacks hockey game on April 21st.

May: We hosted Friends and Family night May 8th. The Great Lakes Men's Chorus and Sticky Notes Quartet joined us for this show where we performed our Regionals competition set for an audience for the first time! Then off we went to competition in Cleveland May 11th - 13th where we received 4th place out of 13 amazing choruses!

May/June: Our spring/summer schedule included performances at Porter Hills Retirement Village on May 22nd and Holland Home on June 22nd. We had those seniors swingin' and singing along with our summer show package of old time favorites, show tunes, gospel numbers, and patriotic classics.

Singing patriotic songs is always moving but never quite so moving as singing it for over 200 new U.S. citizens at a naturalization ceremony on June 7th. Sixty-seven countries were represented in this inspirational ceremony at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center! And we have been invited for a repeat performance in September.

On June 4th, we returned to a favorite venue and performed at Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts. We followed this with our first ever performance at the Meijer Gardens amphitheater on June 20th!! This fun show ended with a standing ovation and calls for an encore! And THEY want us back again, too!

The summer schedule continued with another great show at the Fremont Thursday Night Concert Series on June 29th. Phew!! This could have been an exhausting schedule if it wasn't so much fun!

Photos from each of these performances are on page 3 and on our Facebook page.



## COSTUME CORNER

So, I wonder if this is the first time our chorus chose to add a colorful scarf to our costumes? Circa 1968.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS, HIGHLIGHTS, & VIDEOS!!

## NEW DIRECTIONS

*Written by Elaine Martin*

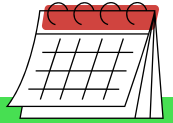
Each year in May, our chorus starts a new year. Memberships are renewed and a new leadership team is elected and installed. This is the time for reflection, planning, changes, and new directions. And our new leadership team is starting the 2023-24 year with a “grand slam”!! The “Take Me Out to the Installation” ceremony on June 26th was a “pitch perfect” festivity filled with fun, food, and frivolity! Members answered the team call and came dressed to “pitch ball”!

The baseball themed night really made this event one to remember. Annual reports were presented, our “MVP” Sweet Adeline of the Year was announced (congrats Judy Herrick), and each leadership member was asked to confirm her commitment to serve our chorus. Special guest commentator Mike Newell, public address announcer for the West Michigan Whitecaps, shared the mic with Colleen Pearson as they installed our new “team captains”. There were “bases run, double plays, and balls hit out of the park” as each one took their turn “at the plate” while their fans did “the wave”!

The leadership team will play their first “away game” (retreat) July 7-8th when they begin work on our new “game plan”. Topics of discussion may include our mission statement, updates or revisions to directors contract and bylaws, regional affiliations, budget and fund raising, technology and equipment needs and priority purchases, the new director search, and so much more. We will be hearing ideas and sharing discussions about “new directions” at our picnic and goal setting meeting on July 17th.

To see a complete list of our new leadership team, follow this link to our GRSA website.  
<http://www.grsa.net/dbpage.php?pg=officers>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



July 10th & 24th: Coaching with Ann Jarchow  
July 14th-16th: Queen’s College in Richardson, TX  
July 17th : Chorus picnic and goal setting  
July 30th: Leads sectional  
Aug. 6th: Whitecaps game & National Anthem  
Aug. 23rd: Sentinel Pointe performance  
Sept. 13: Naturalization Ceremony  
Sept. 15th-17th: Fall Harmony Weekend  
Oct. 30th-Nov. 4th: SAI International  
Nov. 8th-11th: Harmony Inc. Int. Convention  
Dec. 1st : New Amsterdam Village performance



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## REFLECTIONS OF MY FIRST 30 DAYS

*Written by Judy Westers, Interim Director*

When I participated in the writing of the GRSA Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles, I remember being vocal about how we “nurture and mentor” leaders within our chorus. I was vocal because I witnessed and experienced nurturing and mentoring personally, watched others blossom when they experienced it, and knew it was part of our DNA. Little did I know that 3 years later I would be asked to lead this amazing group on the eve of 5 community performances in my first 30 days!

The first time I ever directed was on Monday December 17, 1991. At the end of a fun rehearsal, Ann Jarchow asked me to direct the closing song. I remember the day well because I lost my job earlier in the day. It was a roller coaster of emotions. What could have been my worst day, ended with a spark of joy, hope and love.

Through nurturing, mentoring, and education, I have grown in my knowledge of, and confidence in, music theory, leadership, singing, directing and so much more. It has been pure joy to take the stage in my new role and receive overwhelming encouragement from members, friends, family, and our community. I have asked for help every step of the way and not a single person said “no”. I’ve asked people to step out of their comfort zone and unleash their own creativity and leadership. The results have been spectacular. When I see the chorus sparkle, my heart sings!

## SWEET ADELINE OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO JUDY HERRICK

*by Colleen Pierson, edited by Elaine Martin*

The 2022-23 Sweet Adeline of the Year Award goes to Judy Herrick who has been a Sweet Adeline for 40 years. “I was totally blown away,” said Herrick. “I feel I am the Sweet Adeline of the year because of the energy, enthusiasm and willingness of all the chorus members to make this the best chorus it could be. I am what I am because of every member in the chorus.”

Interim director Judy Westers was so excited about the announcement. “Judy has tirelessly served our chorus for as long as I’ve been a member, and that’s a long time! She is an amazing singer, helps lead our bass section, and wrangles all the talent for emcee work for our performances. Most of her service is behind the scenes. She is my “go to” person ... for anything! She has been an amazing influence in my life and well deserving of this honor,” she concluded.

When you have 40 years of memories, a favorite can be difficult to decide upon. After all, she has traveled the world singing and performing. “My most recent favorite memories are many: Our performance at Meijer Gardens, the Naturalization performance, and performing for our veterans at the 80th commemorative anniversary at Pearl Harbor. Quite honestly, the best memories are of this “team” of women who care about one another; about their personal lives, their struggles and successes, and how we help one another through challenges,” Herrick exuberantly explained.

When she isn’t singing, Herrick loves boating, road trips and hours of volunteering with her husband Nick at their church and for other non-profits.



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## OUR CRAZY QUARTER CAPTURES

Photos by GRSA members & friends



### COME SING WITH US!

Guests are welcome to come to one of our weekly rehearsals to check us out. Rehearsals are held at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 7495 Cascade Rd., Grand Rapids from 7:00-9:30 p.m. For more information on how to arrange a visit or become a member, call 616-710-1765 or email [contact@grsa.net](mailto:contact@grsa.net).

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