

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jeanne O'Connor, Author, Young In Heart.



The selection of Jeanne O'Connor to continue to record the history of Harmony, Inc. seems a natural choice since Jeanne began her Harmony, Inc. career under the tutelage of one of its early driving forces, G. Ruth Geils, who authored the 25th Anniversary booklet, Harmony From Our Hearts. To say that Jeanne grew up in barbershop would certainly be an understatement. She first joined Harmony, Inc. at the age of 14 as a member of the Metropolitan Chicago-based VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS chapter. She has continued with the VVCs since that time, with brief periods when job transfers removed her from the Chicago area.

In her years within Harmony, Inc. Jeanne has learned, grown and served in a wide variety of ways. As a singer, Jeanne began as a lead, but earned international championship status as the baritone in the 1964 Harmony Queens, the SCALE BLAZERS, and again in 1974 as the bass in ESPRIT DE CORPS. More recently, when the original baritone of the 1987 Harmony Queens had to resign during the quartet's reigning year, Jeanne became the baritone of KALEIDOSCOPE. She has been director of the VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS since 1976, with a four-year sabbatical when her family moved from the Chicago area to the Quad Cities (Iowa) where she directed the SOUNDSATIONS for a few years. Upon returning to Chicago, she again took on the responsibilities of directing immediately following the 1983 contest and, under her direction, the VVCs have won an unprecedented 10 international chorus championships. Jeanne's talents as director and coach have her traveling throughout the organization as chorus/quartet coach and as instructor at Area and International schools.

At the administrative level, Jeanne has served in many ways, including as a member of the International Board of Directors of Harmony, Inc. for six years, a position to which she has recently been re-elected. Her initial years of service on the Board concluded with a two-year term as International President from 1986-88. A certified Chairman of Judges, she has also served as International Contest & Judging Chairman from 1994-98 and continues as a member of the International Contest & Judging Committee.

In addition to her Harmony career, Jeanne enjoys her role as wife to Dennis and mother of two, now adult, children Michael and Kelly. She recently updated her secretarial proficiency by returning to school to add computer skills to her long list of talents. And when she isn't barbershopping, as a sports enthusiast, she can be found golfing, playing tennis and biking.

But Jeanne is never very far from barbershop harmony as it has provided her with, in her own words, "a lifetime of enjoyment and fulfillment." There can be no more fitting description of the author of Young In Heart, Jeanne O'Connor, than to say that at a **young** age, Jeanne first learned to appreciate the **heart** of barbershop harmony and, throughout her career, she has contributed lovingly to the **pulse** of this beloved organization.

In Harmony,
Jacquie Jensen, ICJ Chairman