

PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS

1992

THE BEST laid plans – by Area 1 hostess chapter CHALEUR ECHOES (Dalhousie, New Brunswick) – turned into a nightmare when all pre-arranged Area 1 Convention and Contest sites, excluding hotel, were unavailable due to a labor strike which affected the school (contest site), its janitorial staff, bus drivers, etc. Thanks to the cooperation of the Area, and some quick thinking by the hostess chapter, a church in Dalhousie was secured, pews removed from the sanctuary to allow for risers, and contests were held without stage or curtains. New locations were found for the luncheon, craft classes and Fun Night. Transportation problems were solved by Area chapter buses making extra trips. Impossible conditions were overcome and Area 1 enjoyed a wonderful weekend of friendship and song!

It was while attending the 1960 Convention that Ruth Geils was inspired to write the Harmony Creed as an expression of her admiration for the organization newly formed. The Board promptly replaced the Code of Ethics with the new Creed. The 1975 Board then rescinded that decision, thus reinstating the Code. The 1992 Board of Directors rewrote the Code, combining it with the Harmony Creed. Amen.

At the Area 4 AC&C, a new chapter was welcomed to the ranks. HEART OF INDIANA (Indianapolis, Indiana) received its Chapter Charter at the Convention and won its first Area Chorus Contest. Such immediate success was a hint of exciting things to come from this effervescent group of harmonious Hoosiers.

“Those Fabulous Fifties” International Convention, hosted by the ALPHA CHORDS of Rochester, New York, had people rocking around the clock in poodle skirt outfits, crinolines and saddle



Aura Daye, 1992-1994 International President.

SEQUEL (Heart of Indiana), were escorted to the big dance Showcase in a 1957 Chevy, and the “Fonz” saluted the CHAMPLAIN ECHOES with a double “thumbs up” for winning their third blue ribbon. Cool!

In an effort to establish alternate sources of revenue for the organization, non-Harmony businesses were invited to have sale booths at the International Convention. In addition to the financial benefit, this endeavor made available to the members quality, music-related properties without considerable investment being made by Harmony, Inc. Due to alternate revenue plans, and to an increase in membership totals the previous few years, membership dues continued to meet expenses and postpone a dues increase, for the time being. On past occasions the membership had indicated to the International Board that it would rather have smaller increases in dues on a regular basis than one large increase when the organization was on the brink of a

financial crisis. Although the budget was balanced, a review at this time indicated that rising costs of paper, postage, printing, travel, supplies and Canada’s Goods and Services Tax necessitated a \$2 dues increase. The membership would vote in September of 1993 and, upon its approval, the increase to \$30 (US) for Regular Membership would take effect in March of 1994.

The initiation of a new contest opportunity addressed the need to encourage and involve outlying chapters as active participants of Harmony, Inc. The International Contest & Judging Committee developed a Chorus Contest for those chapters far removed from the hub of their Area’s activities and spring qualifying round. Invitations to participate would be issued to choruses designated by the Board as “outlying.” Should two or more take up the challenge, a contest would be held. The winner of the event would be designated the Geographically Outlying Chorus (GOC) Qualifier and would go on to compete in the International Chorus Contest on Saturday as contestant number three (allowing the singers to witness the remainder of the contest). Should only one chorus accept the invitation, it would be declared the GOC Qualifier. The first such contest would take place the following year.





1992 International Chorus Champions – **CHAMPLAIN ECHOES, INC.** (Burlington, Vermont)
 Greg Morrill and Alice Krudenier, Co-Directors.

Other highlights of the year included HITS "College of Barbershop Knowledge" held in Detroit, Michigan. The VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS were warmly welcomed as guest performers and sisters in harmony at the LABBS Convention in Warwick, England. S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. announced that a new judging system with three performance categories was under consideration. KALEIDOSCOPE (1987 Harmony Queens) was the first Harmony, Inc. quartet to represent our organization on the World Harmony Jamboree at the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. Convention held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Perhaps the greatest celebration within this year occurred when the proposed settlement of Sweet Adelines, Inc. (temporarily Harmony International) was accepted and the appropriate court documents were signed by both parties. As agreed upon by a Harmony, Inc. membership vote: the files were permanently sealed; financial statements prepared by Harmony, Inc.'s International Board of Directors made no reference to the litigation; and any references which might have implied the amount of the settlement were eliminated. When Sweet Adelines International announced its new name, the turmoil of two-and-a-half years ended; in victory, Harmony, Inc.'s identity and pride remained intact.



1992 Harmony Queens, **SEQUEL**, Indianapolis, Indiana, (left to right) Meridy Thorn, bari; Debbie Wheeler, lead; Alberta "Dodie" Florence, bass; Janet Foster, tenor.



1993 Harmony Queens, **SPECTRUM**, Dartmouth/Halifax, Nova Scotia, (left to right) Judy Raymond, tenor; Ellen Belyea, lead; Anne Bureau, bari; Marion Penton, bass.

A MAJOR CHALLENGE

Perhaps the most challenging period in the last 15 years began in June 1989 when Harmony, Incorporated first learned that the Sweet Adelines, Inc. Board of Directors had decided the 41-year-old name of its organization would officially be changed to "Harmony International." It was immediately apparent to us that the existence of two organizations of similar purpose, with nearly identical names, would create considerable confusion – for the barbershop world and the general public. Also clear was that Harmony, Inc., much smaller in size, could suffer a great loss – our identity was in jeopardy – even though our only fault in the matter was having chosen a name thirty years ago that was good enough to emulate thirty years later!

By February of 1990, our attorney's letters (demanding Sweet Adelines, Inc. cease and desist from pursuing this infringing action) had had little to no impact. Some members of their own organization formed "Put It To A (Membership) Vote" and "Stop! The Name Change" Committees seeking the Board's reconsideration of its decision.

By April, media announcements of the new name began in Tulsa, Oklahoma; a large "Harmony

International" sign was erected atop the headquarters building. One newspaper article quoted their attorney as saying he did not believe a lawsuit would be filed against his client. Goliath probably thought similarly of a response by David!

Harmony, Inc. filed a Complaint (suit) in Federal Court on April 13, 1990. The legal proceedings to protect our name, financed in large part with donations by our concerned and generous membership, continued for two more years. In mid-1992, we accepted their proposed litigation settlement out of court. Anxious for harmonious resolution, our membership voted in agreement to permanently seal the files; no reference to litigation or amount of the settlement would appear in financial statements. Soon thereafter, the new "Harmony International" changed its name (and its headquarters sign) to "Sweet Adelines International."

Once again, as in our humble beginnings three decades ago, our mere existence was challenged. Once again, with the undaunted resolve of our membership...and commitment to democratic principles and ideals upon which we're built...this organization prevailed. In victory, the name and dignity of **Harmony, Inc.** were preserved.



1993 International Chorus Champions – *VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS* (Metro Chicago, Illinois), Jeanne O'Connor, Director.