



Area 1 Ensemble September 2016

I love the fall for many reasons! It seems to come with a sense of renewed interest, renewed energy and a schedule that starts out clear but seems to fill up quickly!! Here I am, planning for my children's Christmas musical, IC&C in November, Area business in October and fitting in chorus activities everywhere there is an opening when family and work hasn't reserved some time! No wonder time goes quickly.. The fall is booked!! Next quiet time..looking at some time in January..whew!

I trust that you have had a wonderful summer, and that good health and a renewed energy are taking you into the fall. Chorus activities are picking up and I suspect music teams and board of directors have been meeting to plan for an exciting year.



I'm so excited for ScotianAires, Sea Belles, Tonic! and Never Too Late! These ladies will represent Area 1 at IC&C 2016!!! Yeah Area 1! I know I speak for the entire Area when I wish you all the best and tell you how proud we are! Good luck! (I'll be in the audience breathing for you, lifting phrase endings, mentally putting energy in my body—I'll be right there with you... except for the singing—that my friends, I leave to you!)



Qualifiers for IC&C 2016!

AREA 1

Important Dates:

***Island A Cappella and Codiac Chords** offer 6 week *Find Your Voice* program starting Sept!

***Valley Voices Show**—Let the Curtain Rise, October 15 7 pm
*check chapter websites for details

Area 1 Council—Oct 21 2-4 pm informal discussion 7-9:30 pm meeting

Autumn Blend—Oct 22nd

IC&C, Providence Rhode Island, Nov. 2-6th

Elm City Echoes—Christmas Concert Nov 27 afternoon dorothyowe@gmail.com

Area 1 Spring Council—April 21, 2017

AC&C 2017—Sackville, NB June 1-4, 2017

Big thank you to Elm City Echoes that pulled all the details together for a very successful AC&C and still managed to put an excellent performance on the stage! Well done! This year, your AC&C Team will be working to pull the details together—please read through this edition of the ensemble where you will meet your new team.

Following AC&C a survey was distributed to all members of Area 1—thank you to those that participated! While 93% were very pleased with ACC 2016, there were some areas that were worth discussing to see if we can't improve a few more details. Please read on for a thorough discussion regarding these concerns. This is another example of the members of Area 1 working as an ensemble—thank you.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Area Director for the past 4 years, and an honour to serve one more term. My vision of an Area 1 Ensemble gets clearer every year. Thank you for your support and willingness to work with me for the growth of the Area and Harmony, Inc.

Linda, Area 1 Director

Area 1 Web Site <http://harmonyarea1.ca>

Area 1 Ensemble

Area News....



Do you have fall coaching already booked.. Or still in the planning stage??? Hold up.. Please don't book anything for October 22nd.

Autumn Blend—song: Glory of Love

Craft Class—title to be announced

AUTUMN BLEND

Place: It will be held in the Sackville/Moncton area, but one half of our usual venue was needed for a hockey tournament!! Soooo.. We are looking for a new venue—update to follow!

Cost: Will depend on cost of venue (but will do our best to keep below \$20)

ACC Team 2016-2017

ACC chair - Deb Moreau, Valley Voices

Treasurer- Madeline Power, Newfound Sound

Facility manager- Mary Ganeau, ScotianAires Registration-Carolyn Pellow, Elm City Echoes



Hostess chapter- Inez Cooper, Valley Voices
(includes theme/ logo/ decorations, hospitality, fun night, moon glow, banquet, assisting ACC Team)

Judges Services - Jane Risley, ScotianAires,

Contest and Stage Manager-June Cousens,
Newfound Sound

PR/Marketing - Carole Peacock, Elm City Echoes

Volunteer Coordinator- **vacant**

Transportation Coordinator-**vacant**



Yes.. Our very own Sue Kember and Jill Reid working hard at Harmony U! Sue and Jill are both candidates in the judging program and would welcome invitations to come and coach your chorus or quartets. Their costs are reasonable (just expenses perhaps??) but the rewards are worth so much more!

Jill is certifying in the Presentation (soon to be Performance) Category and Sue in the Singing category.

Special congratulations to Fatima Whelan (ScotainAires) who was recently invited to attend Category Training School as an applicant in the Judging Program (Presentation). Fatima will travel to Greenfield, New Hampshire in January 2017. After completing the initial assessment, she will be a first year Candidate, where she will apply what she has learned and continuing to learn/train by attending future contests and category schools to further excel in the program!



Harmony, Inc. has created a youth guide called “Harmony for Young Women youth guide”. You can find it on the web site at <http://www.harmonymembers.org/docs/IBOD/s2/HFYWProgGuide.pdf> This document has resources and templates that you can use if you are inviting youth through the school system or planning a youth event. Please keep in mind that Harmony, Inc.’s policy is that these initiatives are not to be consider recruitment programs, but rather opportunities to raise awareness about 4 part a cappella singing in the barbershop style!



Updates from Harmony

Harmony, Inc.

Due to ongoing problems with the company hired to produce mp3s recordings from IC&C 2013-2015 performances, a decision has been made to cancel the contract with Niche Music Group and seek an alternative source. Unfortunately this will mean that performances for IC&C 2016 will not be available on i-tunes

Incorporation of Areas—2,3,4 and 6 to be done ASAP, Areas 1 and 5 membership is totally Canadian so discussion regarding Incorporation is ongoing

There is work afoot to provide a “Tool box” for chapters who would like to pursue grants and need help to learn how. Keep checking the web site for new documents!

Parade of Champions at IC&C—there will be no formal admission fee this year, but donations will be accepted by the Harmony Queens Association. Donations raised are used to provide funding to chapters/Areas that wish to invite Champion quartets to be guests on their shows.

Harmony logo is now trademarked in both Canada and USA!

Harmony Strong 2020—we are now in the second year of a 5 year plan to make Harmony Strong! At this point we have identified Musical Leadership as one of our priorities. A “Directors first” fundraising campaign will be unrolled at I&C 2016—our goal is to have all Directors in Harmony receive some financial assistance to attend training opportunities such as Directors College with the BHS over the next few years! Other positions of musical leadership (i.e. section leads) will move up in priority once we ensure that our Directors receive some attention and support.

With a desire to encourage members of Harmony, Inc. to consider serving the organization at the International level, a video has been posted to the web site called “How to become an Assistant or Board Member”. Please take a moment and have a look—the International Board is served by people like you and I—perhaps there is something there that tweaks your curiosity!

You will soon see a posting for a second edition of The Key-Note

Harmony’s website home page will soon host an update for Harmony Strong 2020

Area 1 Ensemble-Having An attitude of gratitude!

Harmony University 2016

A Most Wonderful OpporTUNEity!

Last April when I received the news from Harmony Incorporated that I would be one of two recipients of a scholarship to Harmony University I was over the moon! I'd heard such amazing things about this week-long workshop from previous attendees and could hardly believe that I was being given this incredible gift of education!

As a friendly Maritimer I decided to make a little "small talk" with the gentleman seated next to me on the flight from Toronto to Nashville. I asked him if he often travels to Nashville. His face became a bit pensive as if he was trying to figure out exactly how to respond. He began by saying, "Well, I belong to this organization of singers....." at which I immediately blurted out "are you going to Harmony U??!!" His eyes got as big as saucers and a big smile crossed his face. Well, he and I became instant buddies, gabbing all the way to Nashville about barbershop music and what an amazing hobby we had both discovered many years ago.

Eventually there we were, each with our iPhone and ear buds reviewing our "General Session" music which included Java Jive, My Girl, a gospel tune called Yes I Can, plus two others. I was glad to have bumped into this friendly companion as he had attended Harmony U. last year and was able to give me the lay of the land and how everything really worked. He especially noted the nightly "ice cream social" where you could have all the ice cream and toppings that you wanted (Yep! Every night!) while enjoying "surround sound" barbershop!

At the airport in Nashville while waiting for our shuttle to Belmont University we hauled out our General Session music again and started duetting the Lead and Tenor parts. Before we knew it a young man in his 20's who was also heading to HU heard us singing and made his way over to join us with the baritone part! We sang as a trio for a bit and even drew a crowd of onlookers (probably thinking, man this ain't country!) It didn't take long to hear a bass chiming in and lo and behold we had our own Nashville International Airport quartet! What a fun way to pass the time!

Upon arriving at Belmont University my first thought was that I have never seen such a beautiful campus. Green carpets of grass complimented flowers of every color. There was a fountain in front of my dorm that was illuminated red, white and blue at night. One building had a huge domed ceiling with gold inlay. I will always think of that domed ceiling as the soft palate of singing! It's the perfect analogy!

The educational classes at HU were exceptional. There were so many from which to choose that it was impossible to take part in everything so careful scheduling in advance was a must. The instructors were first class all the way and from all parts of the world, even as far away as Australia!

The track I primarily followed during the week was, of course, the director's track. Classes in this track focus on skills and situations that affect the front line or assistant director. My main class, which was for 2 hours each day, was called "Conducting Techniques" taught by Kirk Young. Kirk is a seasoned barbershop professional and a former judge in the Singing category. There were only 12 in the class, both men and women, so we received lots of individual attention and we got to work in pairs a lot, too. There was lots of laughter as we tried to mirror some of the manual dexterity challenges we were given. I didn't realize how difficult it is to get the brain to send a signal to the less dominant side of the body!

Having An attitude of gratitude – continued....

Each member of the class had two 10 minute critique sessions during which we directed the class in one of the General Session songs. Both Kirk and the class could critique. Everyone was nervous, including me, but I sure could feel the difference in my directing style when I followed his instructions. It felt un-natural to me but the class said it looked great and that the direction was easy to follow. My chorus will be my guinea pigs this year as I practice this “new to me” style of directing!

Another class I took each day was called “Rehearsal and Teaching Strategies”. It was so interesting to hear other directors share experiences and challenges. Instructor Chris Peterson mapped out an efficient rehearsal schedule, and how varying teaching techniques can address each type of learner and how to keep advanced singers enthused while integrating new, inexperienced barbershop singers to the chorus.

Other classes included “Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Inefficiencies”, “Effective Vocal Warmups”, “Shaping the Sound of Your Singers”, “The Science Behind Riser Placement”, “Musical Devices in our Arrangements”, and a session on the new “Performance” category. There were also lunch time and supper hour classes for 45 minutes with lots of great stuff, too.

There were two “shows”; one on Friday night which highlighted all of the quartets that received coaching that week. Then on Saturday night it was the big finale with a performance by 2015 BHS international championship quartet “Instant Classic” as well as “Bling”, 2015 Sweet Adelines International quartet champions. We were also treated to a young men’s chorus (wow, were they something else!!) as well as a men’s Honors Chorus and a women’s Honors Chorus. These choruses are much like our Area 1 Chorus. Instead of learning one song they learn 4 or 5 songs and have rehearsals all week. On Saturday afternoon prior to the show in the evening they travel by bus to various venues around Nashville and perform!

I don’t know if you can feel my excitement and enthusiasm as I write this and recall this most amazing week. I can honestly say that I have never experienced anything like it. I have made wonderful new friends that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Area One, thank you for helping to make this experience a reality for me. I urge each of you to give serious thought about taking part next year. It’s not an inexpensive venture to be sure but there are various scholarship opportunities available. Check them out and maybe you will be sharing your experiences with Area One next year at this time!

Wishing you each a joyous and FUN year of singing ahead!

Harmony from my Heart,

Carolyn Prime

Director, Island A Cappella

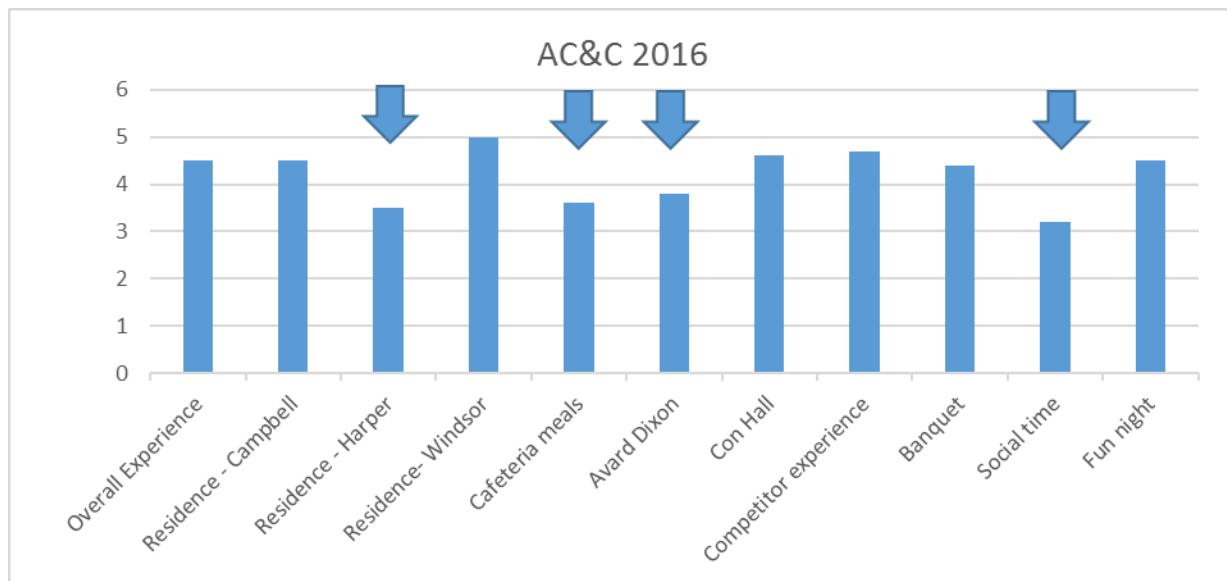


Area 1 Ensemble—follow up to AC&C survey

As a result of conversations with members, and the follow up survey, we confirm that AC&C 2016 was a success!!! Thank you Elm city Echoes and your team of volunteers!

We do have a few areas that are worth discussing. I want you to know that your opinions matter and your voice is heard. Many of these concerns have been discussed with the Event Coordinator for Mt. Alison - he has been amazing to work with and sincerely wants to meet our needs to the best of their ability. He is looking forward to coordinating our convention from start to finish next year (since he came on staff in the winter of 2016).

There is a lot of information here.. For those of you that like to be informed -great! For those of you that are ok with hearing just the highlights, you might want to skip to the sections that interest you the most :)



Big thank you to those of you that took the time to respond to the survey! Because of this, we can work as an ensemble to continue to have an Area contest and convention that we are proud of!

Please follow along as I share the follow up to some of the areas identified in the chart.

Accommodations (in particular, Harper))

There were minimal concerns regarding Campbell and Windsor but a number of concerns regarding the state of Harper. A number of these concerns have been addressed.

Ryan (event Coordinator for Mt. Alison) is in the process of creating a standards guide to ensure facility (in this case residences) are cleaned to appropriate standards.

There were some staffing concerns that have been addressed.

This year had the highest student damage over the past number of years.

Carpets are being replaced during the winter break this year.

Management will do another mold check and if anyone saw a specific place where there was mold, please let us know. The information will be forwarded to MTA and it will be dealt with promptly.

Management is comfortable that the air quality (including mold count) is acceptable. The

follow up to AC&C survey (continued)....

facility (including water) is tested for mold and other concerns regularly.

Alternative to using Harper would be to consider more people in Windsor (this will require a site visit before we commit to this alternative)

No carpets

All rooms are doubles, but could be offered as singles if requested

Shared washroom (like Harper) with private showers/tubs

There is one ensuite per floor which has its own bathroom.

Undergoing major renovations in 2018 to be completed in 2020 -will have rooms similar to Campbell (two single rooms with shared bathroom)

Other alternatives include a series of residences on the other side of campus. This will require a site visit prior to any consideration and ensure a means to transport members across campus.

Heat/vent system- while the University had an issue with lack of heat on the Wednesday, it was resolved and a policy has been put in place that will address this situation in the future.

We have been assured that at no time was the ventilation system turned off. Unfortunately, there is no air conditioning available on campus to deal with rooms that are too hot.

The intention is that Harper will meet our needs for 2017 as regular maintenance/cleaning will be managed better next year.

Dining services

Meals (breakfast/lunch/supper) - While the survey comments did make note that dining services have made an improvement in providing item for restricted diets, there were still a number of people that were not satisfied with the menu items available for meal time in the cafeteria. Ryan has asked if we could make some suggestions he would be willing to pass them along to food services. The majority of people were please with the banquet meal this year.

Avard Dixon- accessibility and space

Accessibility is definitely a concern once you are in Avard Dixon - in order to attend classes on different floors, those not able to use the stairs have to go outside and walk around the building.

As for space, it is difficult ahead of time to predict what classes will draw the biggest crowds! I think this might have been the first time we've had a complaint that people couldn't get into classes!! What a great problem to have - everyone wants to learn!!!

We are currently looking at a couple of other buildings on campus that have theatre style seating and will accommodate larger groups. The jury is still out as to how we can make this work and at the same time, ensure that our members with mobility issues will be able to attend

Accessing the contest stage became an issue for one of our members in a wheelchair.

Unfortunately, we were not aware ahead of time that an accommodation was needed but we are using this as a teachable moment and are inquiring about the availability of a ramp/lift should it ever be required in the future.

follow up to AC&C survey (continued)....

Social Time following contest

It was apparent that many of our members look forward to attending the Moonglow and hearing the choruses/quartets perform. We tried something new this year and it didn't work...we will return to holding Moonglow in Jennings, ensuring that everyone has a chance to listen to choruses/quartets perform.

Other areas of discussion:

Parking - much improvement over previous years regarding the quad (area in front of residences) Well done!! There were still a few situations with people parking in the administrative parking area (behind Campbell Hall) and at Convocation Hall.

Management will be much stricter next year - no excuses! A parking map will be issued with registration details.

Exiting the stage - it is imperative that we have lighting on that side of the stage. An inquiry will be made to request "path lighting" be available along with appropriate flash lights for safety reasons.

Registration - a conference program software was implemented this year but not in time for our registration. This system will allow us to register on line and claims to be user friendly!

Room Assignment

 ? Of all the planning and coordinating that goes on for a convention this size, the assigning of rooms/residences has always been one of the biggest challenge. Up until 2013, rooms were assigned on a first-come, first-assigned basis. At the council meeting in the fall of 2013 there was great discussion regarding this process as it was a nightmare for Mt. Alison and many Area 1 choruses were not happy. A motion was put forth ("that in advance of each AC&C, held at Mount Allison, there be a random draw for priority of residence preference choice. The choruses would be assigned to their preferred residences in the order in which the chorus names are drawn. Motion Carried (3 opposed, 4 in favour)) As a result, we were assigned our rooms based on a draw for ACC 2014 and ACC 2016. The problem happens when a chorus that drew 4th to be placed in Campbell, has more members than Campbell now has room for. What to do...this created a huge and unfortunate problem this year - one that no chorus wants to be caught in, but it was the math! Yes, there were some other glitches early on (which were attributed to a communication shortfall between the outgoing event coordinator and in the incoming one) but the bottom line left us with a chorus that had to be split between two buildings.

At the fall council meeting in October 2016, your presidents will be discussing this topic once again. Do you have a solution??? If so, please, share with your president so we can have a constructive conversation and agree on a solution that we can all support.

