

BARBERSHOP BEAT

ATLANTIC BAY - MOUNTAIN REGION 19 | SEPTEMBER 2021

Return to Rehearsal Survey Results!

from Patty Weeks, Membership Coordinator

Also in this issue:

How to join the Regional Management Team!

from Irene Hershey, Team Coordinator

Region 19 Event updates

from Lori Jo, Education Coordinator



REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM (RMT)

SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL, INC.



Communications Coordinator

NIKKI BURKHARDT

Valley Forge

saireg19communications@gmail.com

Liaison to: Diamond State, Freedom Valley, Valley Forge



Directors Coordinator

SHERRY STANTON

Capital Accord

sstanton1602@gmail.com

Liaison to: Cape Shore, Philadelphia Freedom, Upper Chesapeake



Education Coordinator

LORI JO WHITEHAUS

Vocal Harmonix

ljwhitehaus@gmail.com

Liaison to: Ocean Bay, DelMarVa, Pride of Baltimore



Events Coordinator

SALLY KELLY

Harbor City Music Company

saireg19events@gmail.com

Liaison to: Capital Accord, Heart of Maryland, Lehigh Valley



Finance Coordinator

CATHY SCHUMAN

Harbor City Music Company

clschuman@gmail.com

Liaison to: Dundalk, Harbor City Music Company, Sing! Shenandoah



Marketing Coordinator

DONNA VINCENT ROA

Harbor City Music Company

donnavincentroa@gmail.com

Liaison to: Vocal Harmonix, Clustered Spires, Arundelair



Membership Coordinator

PATTY WEEKS

Cape Shore, Greater Harrisburg

patty.weeks@comcast.net

Liaison to: Chesapeake Harmony, Jersey Sound, Shades of Harmony



Team Coordinator

IRENE HERSHEY

Vocal Harmonix

ihershey@aol.com

Liaison to: Altoona, Greater Harrisburg, Ringing Hills

REGION 19 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS SECTION INCLUDES CHAPTER EVENTS, REGIONAL EVENTS, EDUCATION EVENTS, AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

EVENT	DATE
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2022

Singer's School, Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel

Jan. 14-16

Region 19 Convention & Competition, Lancaster County Convention Center

Apr. 28-30

International Education Symposium, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX

Jul. 20-24

International Convention, Phoenix, AZ

Sept. 12-17



SUBMIT ADDITIONS AND/OR CORRECTIONS TO THE REGIONAL CALENDAR TO IRENE HERSHEY, TEAM COORDINATOR, [IHERSHEY@AOL.COM](mailto:ihershey@aol.com)
CHORUS SHOW DATES DO NOT HAVE TO BE "CLEARED" WITH THE REGION, HOWEVER, THIS CALENDAR MAY BE USEFUL FOR PLANNING EVENTS.



REGION 19 MISSION

Our mission: Region 19 is a women's organization dedicated to musical excellence and the development of leaders through education, camaraderie, and performance of a cappella harmony in the barbershop style.

Region 19 Website: www.region19sai.org

Member's Facebook: www.facebook.com/region19SAI

Director's Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/381778536043160

Presidents/Team Leaders' Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/514932849349532

REC's Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/558299848045442

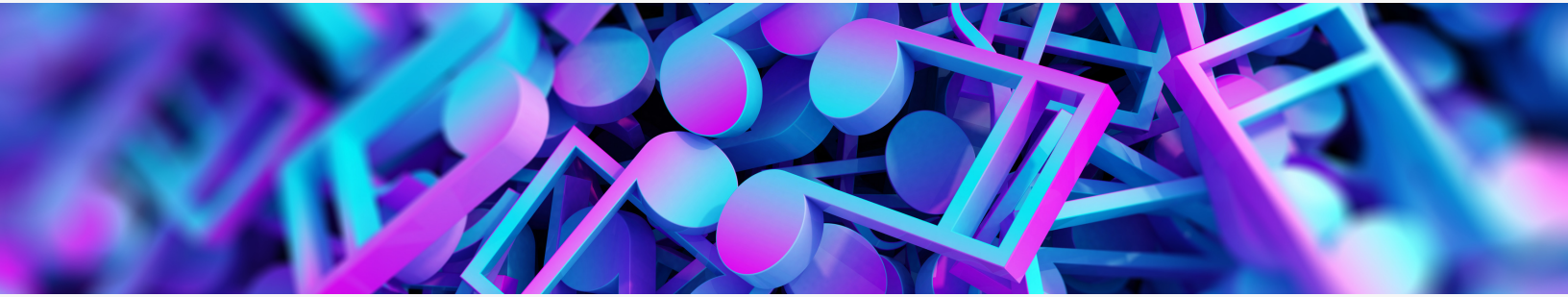
Membership Coordinator's Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/2484755828517569

THANKS FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

We welcome your calendar items, chapter
and quartet news, and other items
of regional interest.

BARBERSHOPBEAT@GMAIL.COM

TEAM COORDINATOR VIBES



Greetings Region 19!! I hope you are as proud to be a part of this awesome region as I am. Through all of the things that this pandemic has laid at our feet, I am in continual awe of the work that has been done within this region by so many to keep us focused on the organization that we are and what we can bring to each other. I hope you join me in giving a nod of approval and thankfulness to the many working tirelessly behind the scenes for you.

With that in mind:

- Have you thought of ways that you might be able to serve and help your region?
- Have you ever considered a role on the Regional Management Team (RMT) that would use the talents you have for the greater good?
- Would you like the opportunity to work with the most caring, talented, energetic, and dedicated group of women around?
- Are you willing to step forward and explore ways that you can be involved?

I will say that as we begin to think toward our, hopefully, successful contest season, we must also look at the changeover that happens each fiscal year on the Management Team. My own term as Team Coordinator will be coming to an end in April 2022 and I would love to have YOU step into that role. Won't you consider how you can best be used in the Team Coordinator capacity and submit an application today? Questions about the role? Feel free to email me at ihershey@aol.com – we'll talk.

Be careful, be safe, and we will be together again soon!

LINES FROM LORI JO



September has arrived which means that Autumn is on the horizon. This is my favorite time of year as the leaves change color, the harvest begins, and there is a special crispness in the air.

Sadly, the pandemic has changed a few things that we love at this time of year. You already know that we canceled F.L.A.S.H. for the fall of 2021. The Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society has also canceled their fall convention. In my last article, I announced that we were being included in this event and several of you asked about more details. Their entire letter is on a separate page of this newsletter. We share the disappointment with our friends in harmony and look forward to fun things together in the future.

Let's turn that frown upside down and take a look at some fun things going on in Region 19!

1. Regional Faculty Visits to Choruses - We have an amazing faculty and many of them can help keep the motivation going on Zoom or in person depending on the current rehearsal protocol for your ensemble. Ask your favorite faculty person personally to get some inspiration. Who are these faculty people?

Check them out here: <https://www.region19sai.org/regional-faculty-chapter-visits.html>

2. Travel in Tune - Have you traveled to any of the regions featured in the Travel in Tune program? Did you see that Region 19 was recently featured? Oh, you missed it? Well, it's still visible on the Sweet Adelines International website. Click this link and scroll down for the welcome by Jenny Harris, the class by Michael Gellert and the chorus overview by Sherry Stanton. Click here: <https://sweetadelines.com/travel-in-tune>

LINES FROM LORI JO

3. East Coast Harmony Explosion - ECHE - Now here is some awesome big news! For the first time, all three barbershop organizations in our area have joined together in a youth outreach program. The chairs of this event are Ali Hauger and Katie Macdonald. Details? Do you want details? Here are the basics. Save the Date information will be sent to schools soon.

Sponsoring Organizations (yes, all three!)

- Region 19, Sweet Adelines International
- Area 3, Harmony, Incorporated
- Mid-Atlantic District, Barbershop Harmony Society

Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022

Location: Franklin High School, Reisterstown, Maryland

Participants: Singers in grades 6-12 and music educators

Cost for Participants: Free

Personally, I'm super jazzed that all three of our barbershop communities are coming together for this project. I am not aware of any other joint Region/Area/District programs and working with Brian Schreiner (MAD) and Sarah Thorne-Miller (A3) has been delightful. We all feel the energy coming from Ali and Katie which is quite contagious.

Hopefully you are now smiling and excited about the programs by your Regional Management Team. Do you want to be part of the action? DM me.

BACK TO REHEARSAL

Masks or No Masks? Vaccines? Inside or Outside?



The word of the day is Fluidity - the ability of a substance to flow easily.

I know that so many of you have worked tirelessly to find the best way for your chorus to return to rehearsal, keep your members safe and healthy, and prepare for future performances, regional events, and contest. We were given resources to help with planning from International Headquarters but it was suggested that each chorus develop a plan that worked best for your members, your location, and your state and county requirements, so we have seen many variations from choruses around the country and around the world.

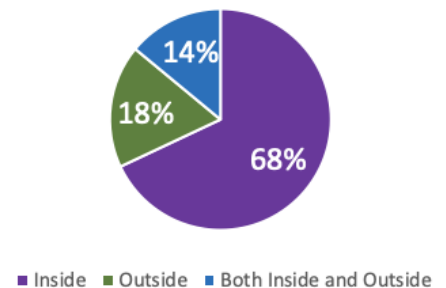
The latest Region 19 survey which was sent out the first week of August 2021 presented the following responses:

80.8 % of choruses have returned to in-person rehearsals and of the choruses who have returned to rehearsals, 68% were meeting inside, 18% were meeting outside and the remainder were using a combination of meeting modalities

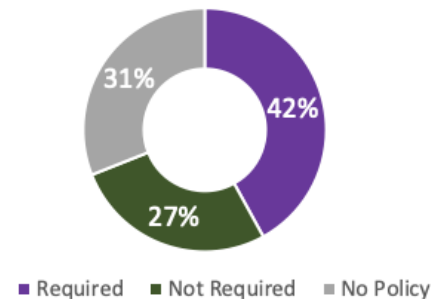
Regarding vaccinations, 42% of choruses that responded to the survey required members to be vaccinated in order to participate in rehearsals, 27% did not require vaccinations, and the remainder had no specific policies.

When asked if masks were required regardless of vaccination status, 50% of the choruses responded Yes, 26.9% responded No, and 23.1% reported that it was a personal choice left up to each member.

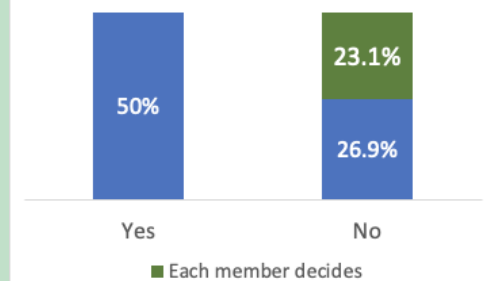
Chorus In-person Rehearsal Locations



Chorus Vaccination Policies



Masks Required?



BACK TO REHEARSAL

Other comments that were shared on the survey included the following:

- We did return to in-person rehearsals three times in July, once outside, twice inside, but have suspended rehearsals until September 13 due to the increased cases of Delta.
- Before returning to in-person rehearsals we simply asked members whether or not they were vaccinated and no one had a problem with us asking the question, nor were there any members who were vaccine-hesitant.
- We are following guidance as provided by the county health officer. As community guidelines change, we change. Right now a return to inside rehearsals requires masking by ALL regardless of vaccination status. We would rather be outside unmasked.
- We are “watching” the COVID numbers starting to increase and we believe this could affect us going back to either wearing face masks, Zoom meetings, or in-car rehearsals.
- We hope to bring non-vaccinated members back eventually, but it’s still too soon.
- Once we confirmed all were vaccinated, we were ready to return to rehearsals. We just had to wait until our rehearsal venue opened up to outside groups again.
- Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases where we rehearse and where members live, we are doing a combination of indoor/outdoor rehearsals. Masks are required for indoor singing/activities. We are able to distance and do wear our masks.
- We are approaching our return gradually, starting with sectional rehearsals. The full chorus will meet in September.
- Allowing non-vaccinated people to attend indoors, even while they were masked, did not make people feel comfortable. We have suspended rehearsals until after Labor Day.
- We wear colored bands (red, yellow, green) to indicate our interaction comfort level. Each member must bring their own music, writing instruments. No one shares supplies.

As you can see, each chorus has developed plans that work best for the culture of their group and the requirements of their county and state officials. However, the recent increase in COVID-19 cases has led several choruses to step back and make adjustments based on the need to maintain a safe environment for all. So I urge you to embrace fluidity and be ready to change your plans if needed. Stay connected with those members who are still not comfortable attending in-person rehearsals. Divide the chorus in two and meet in smaller groups. Shorten your rehearsal time and take more breaks throughout the evening. Practice good hygiene and use hand sanitizer as you enter rehearsal. Wear masks and encourage vaccinations.

Continue to update the Google Form as you make adjustments to your plans. We all learn by sharing ideas that work and the challenges we face. <https://forms.gle/vH1uv7ZGAqwSVvVX8>

Let me know if you have questions that I can address. And send a representative to our monthly online meetings so you can get ideas and encouragement from your Sisters in Harmony.

Patty Weeks, Membership Coordinator, Region #19 RMT, Return to Rehearsal Liaison

patty.weeks@comcast.net

A LETTER FROM BHS

Hello M-AD Family!

It is with great disappointment that we must cancel the M-AD Fall Convention Oct 1-2, 2021. The M-AD leadership has been carefully following the uptick in COVID infections which are primarily a result of the Delta variant. A careful view of projections from the CDC in Delmarva, DC, NJ, NY and PA suggests that the level of community transmission is unlikely to be in the moderate or low zone by early October. We have also obtained information based on mathematical and CDC infectious disease modeling which suggests that case counts in our region will remain high enough that it is a virtual certainty that at least one person in a room of 500 people at our convention will be infected with COVID regardless of vaccination status (<https://covid19risk.biosci.gatech.edu>).

We have considered four issues:

- With community spread increasing over the next several weeks, the risk of choruses rehearsing especially indoors is higher than it was before - this decreases the safe preparation time for our convention.
- The Delta variant is very contagious and has resulted in a significant number of breakthrough infections (that is, vaccinated people are getting infected) - fortunately, the vaccines are protective in reducing the severity of illness, hospitalizations and deaths.
- The efficacy of the vaccines in preventing illness is diminishing. This is a normal course of events for vaccines and that is why boosters are given. A large fraction of our demographic is older than 65 and many likely got their vaccines in the first quarter of this year. With the current policies, this population will not be able to get boosters in time for the convention, which further elevates the risk.
- Other measures, including protocols on vaccinations, negative tests, and mask wearing, could reduce risk of a COVID exposure or a subsequent super-spreader event at our convention, but this risk would still be extremely high.

If you've already purchased your ticket for the Fall Convention, we will be processing refunds in a timely manner so that you get your money back. If you booked a room at a hotel please call them to cancel your reservation as soon as you are able, so that you do not get charged.

I know we all want to get together to sing and reconnect with friends - we are HEARTBROKEN about this. The decision was not an easy one, but was the best decision to protect the health and safety of all our mighty M-AD members, families and friends. We look forward to resuming conventions and competitions in Spring 2022 and will of course keep you informed as plans take shape.

Brian Schreiner

Mid-Atlantic District President
Barbershop Harmony Society



CHAPTER NEWS



CHESAPEAKE HARMONY

What did you do during your summer vacation? CHC director Sally Burton participated in the BHS Virtual Harmony University 2021. She attended the Director and Vocal Production seminars, Arranging Classes for Music Theory, The Singing Actor, Quartet Management, How to Make Learning tracks and two Virtual Chorus rehearsals. In her free time, she watched the general sessions and still plans to watch other class recordings until Sept. Sally really enjoyed the applied vocal production seminar on how to give a PVI and is looking forward to practicing these new skills! Sally is pictured here during a coaching session by Adam Scott during the directing seminar. We love our director!



DUNDALK

We've been gradually returning to in-person rehearsals over the summer. Sectionals came first, then double sectionals. We're planning to begin regular rehearsals after Labor Day. Meanwhile, we welcomed two more new members, lead Joyce Sippel and tenor Becca Petruccy. Becca is the tenor of Rampage quartet and previously sang with Greater Harrisburg. Joyce is a brand new Sweet Adeline!

CHAPTER NEWS



ARUNDELAIR

Arundelair Chorus had such a fun summer! We returned to in-person rehearsals while still offering a hybrid Zoom option to accommodate members that were unable or uncomfortable attending in person. We practiced like crazy and performed at the First Sunday Arts Festival in downtown Annapolis at the end of August. It was so amazing finally performing together in front of an audience and we were so excited to have two of our new members that joined our chorus right before and during quarantine (pictured with our director Jenny) perform with us for the first time!



DELMARVA

The Delmarva Chorus, under the direction of Carol Ludwig, was honored to perform at the annual American Legion, Post Everlasting Memorial Service held on July 14th at the Ocean City Maryland Convention Center. Some of our smiling members posed for a patriotic collage here.

CHAPTER NEWS



VALLEY FORGE

"This is the moment, this is the day, this is the moment when I know I am on my way"

This summer, Valley Forge Chorus has been working hard on getting our voices back to performance levels. We've rehearsed both virtually and outside throughout June and then finally indoors in July. What a fantastic moment it was when we first took the risers and began ringing chords together again. We truly appreciated what all our hard work was for when we stepped on stage and performed at The Delaware County Summer Festival at Rose Tree Park in Media, PA on August 19. Thanks to our friends at the Mainliners, we were able to perform for the community, and it was a thrill to sing for a live audience once again!

Valley Forge Chorus is excited to announce that we will be performing at the South Wayne PorchFest on September 11. As this year is the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the festivities will begin at 11:30 am with a memorial and tribute to local first responders. We will begin at noon and this is an exciting opportunity to introduce our artform to a new audience and perform alongside so many other awesome musicians. If nearby, please swing by and enjoy the show

CHAPTER NEWS



HEART OF MARYLAND

The Heart of Maryland Chorus turns 70!

Cheers! We're seventy years old this year! Our charter was drawn up on March 12, 1951.

Over the years we've strived to live up to our purpose statement:

"The Heart of Maryland is a performing chorus dedicated to achieving a level of musical quality that makes us proud, in an environment that fosters camaraderie, trust and communication."

In 1987, the Heart of Maryland Chorus, Metro Lark Chorus, and Montgomery Chorus all merged to form the Heart of Maryland, retaining the original charter and name. Carolyn Sexton became the HOM director at that time. In 1994, the chorus split into Heart of Maryland and Maryland Harmony choruses. At that time, HOM hired Jim Turk as our director. We since have had two other directors: Mike DiGirolamo (1998) and Karen Collins (2007).

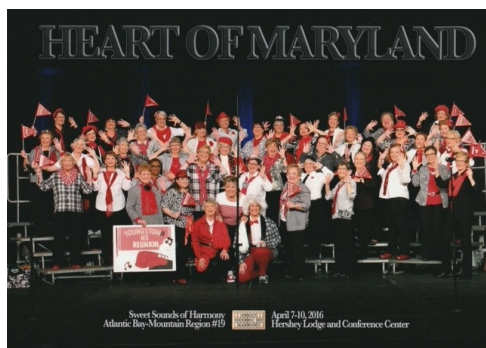
The Hearts have an annual show every year and annually compete in the Region 19 competition. In fact, we were the first to perform in the Region 19 open division in 2013.

The Hearts are proud, too, of our civic service, singing regularly at fundraisers, fairs, and other public events around Montgomery County.

We're especially delighted to perform at healthcare centers. Our director, emcee, and chorus love to interact with our audiences, and this makes for fun and rewarding sing-outs!

The Hearts have that traditional Sweet Adelines spirit of fun. One night a few years ago, we totally surprised our current director, Karen Collins, at one of our Monday night rehearsals. Karen wears a heart tattoo on her arm and a colorful feather (professionally done) in her hair. Imagine her surprise when she was greeted by a chorus of women with feathers in their hair. On another occasion – a dinner at a Region 19 competition in Ocean City – we all showed up with tattoos!

Here's to another wonderful seventy years for HOM!



QUARTET NEWS



BEARFOOT

Bearfoot has continued to keep busy. We supported our chorus Chesapeake Harmony in the 4th of July parade with Eileen driving the truck, Mindy monitoring the music and Peggy and Patti adding to our steps. In fact, while waiting for rehearsals to move closer to normal, we all joined TOPS for weight loss support. Going to meetings and supporting each other, we have lost a total of 150 pounds. That is equivalent to another average sized member. Hmm, could this result in an Open Division package? Stay tuned for updated photos.



Valley Forge Chorus presents

Virtual
Barbershop
BINGO

Friday Sep 24th 7:00 PM

(Zoom room opens 6:30 PM)

\$25 Registration (2 Bingo Cards)

\$10 for each additional card

Reserve tickets online at: www.valleyforgechorus.com/bingo

For more information, please email tickets@valleyforgechorus.com