

2017 Region 13 50-year Members

Dee Dee Hartman

Dee Dee Hartman joined Sweet Adelines International in 1967. She began her journey as member of Anchorage Cheechako Chorus, (later Top of the World), which in 2007 merged with Anchorage Sourdough Chorus to form Alaska Sound Celebration. The merger of the choruses was very special to Dee Dee, as she saw her sisters in song come together as one, doubling her chorus family.



Dee Dee's passion for music has always been evident. She was in Four Below Quartet for many years, singing lead, and baritone, which means as a bass in the chorus, she has sung 3 of the 4 parts. Known as one of the funniest quartets in the region, one of her proudest moments was winning a second place regional medal with Four Below in the early 80s.

Dee Dee is never one to be shy or introverted. Always joking and laughing (one of her many antics is playing a pitch pipe with her nose), she always puts a smile on everyone's face, and loves to give hugs and kisses. Everyone is "darlin'." For many years she held the position as costume chair, and often has been heard saying, "I couldn't sew a lick, but I was the costume chair!"

Dee Dee's husband Don is also a barbershopper and has been a long time member of BHS. He currently performs with the Midnight Sons Chorus in Anchorage.

Andrea Kaisereman

Andrea learned about Sweet Adelines from a school teacher who taught with her at South Pines Elementary. She was married and had three children when she joined in 1967, and started out singing baritone but later changed to lead. It didn't take her long to start singing in quartets...13 to be exact! They were all good ones, too!

Andrea was the lead in Past Reflections Quartet that was the Regional champions in 1981. They had the opportunity to go to International that year. She also directed the Lilac City Chorus for a few years; a job she really enjoyed. She continued to be a mentor for others for many years.



Andrea is a member of "Ovation" and has remained active with them until this year.

Claudia Kirkebo

Owning a barbershop, raising two children, volunteering with the Junior League and Hospice has kept me grounded—but being a member of Sweet Adelines and singing with five choruses and eight quartets over the last 50 years has kept me creative and sane.

I joined Lilac City in 1967, was hooked, and served on every committee I could: Costume, Music, Vice President and Treasurer, Show Chairman (multiple times) and of course, Choreographer. My favorite: being the Chairman of the first Regional Contest held in Spokane in 1976. I'm so glad Region 13 agreed that we have wonderful facilities, and you have come back almost every year since.



In 1982 I moved to Tacoma and sang with Puget Sound, Lakeside, and was a charter member of Pacific Sound and Ovation. 1994 brought a special quartet into my life, and in the spring of 1995, Legacy won the regional contest and competed in New Orleans.

In 2001, there was a need to move back home, and Spokane Falls Chorus took me in for two years until I went CAL, giving me time to take care of aging parents and get my barbershop up and running.

Sweet Adelines has been there for me through many ups and downs, and continues to be more than just a hobby. Choreography and staging continue to be a passion, but it's the friendships and love of singing, the harmony and bling that I missed, After singing with two college chorales, in the spring of 2016 I joined Voices Northwest and am looking forward to being on stage with them this weekend. Voices Northwest, you rock!!

Joan Levitin

Joan, a member Emeritus of the award-winning Pacific Sound Chorus in the Seattle, WA, is a Certified Director, a Certified Expression Judge in the Sweet Adeline International Judging Program...and a quartet and chorus coach. She is a former member of the Region 13 Administrative Staff and still active on the regional educational faculty.

Joan was the front-line director of Jet Cities Chorus for over seven years (leading them to International Chorus Competition in Indianapolis, IN) and the lead in eight regional medalist quartets. Joan has not only taught classes and judged regional and international contests in the United States, Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand...but also coached choruses and quartets in these countries as well.

She has served on several IES faculties and has had many experiences emceeding...the ultimate ones being on the international tours of Roo Crew II in Australia, and Spirit 2000 in England and Ireland.

Joan has been married many years to Bob and is the proud mother of three AND grandmother of two.

