

DIANE HOLLIFIELD

CHORUS AFFILIATION: Capital City Sound Chorus for 55 years

CHORUS ACTIVITIES: Current: Management team (Assistant Events Coordinator); Mentor, Historian, Caroling Scheduler (Past), President (5 terms), 25th Anniversary Show Coordinator, previous lead of three different registered quartets

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES: Has competed in every contest the chorus competed in

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES: Has attended international contest 5 time

ABOUT DIANE: Diane has been a member of Capital City Sound since it began in 1970, and has been a core member of the chorus for its entire existence. She has mentored hundreds of new members over the span of 55 years. She works as guest greeter and helps members make lasting connections with each other and the director.

Diane is responsible for recruiting and supporting new members and has befriended many of our youth members as they come into the chorus. There were times when our chorus almost lost our charter due to the small number of members, and Diane was instrumental in bringing in new people and helping us maintain our charter.

At age 87, she is still fully involved with the chorus and has near perfect attendance. She has been on the management team / board of directors almost every year since 1970. She works on most chorus committees and chairs many of them. If something is happening in the chorus, you will find Diane there helping out or running things. She organizes events and performances and has been doing so for 55 years. She has been involved with every director search we've conducted and often hosted sectionals in her home. She hosts out-of-town guests, quartets, and regional faculty in her home.

Diane helps plan, organize, and set up about 8-10 events per year. This includes everything from all-day coaching (including lunch) to Installation of Officers to our chorus' day of caroling and Christmas Party. She's a born helper who doesn't require accolades; if everything goes smoothly and looks great, Diane is happy.

She does her share of physical labor, too—even at 87! As an example of Diane's dedication to our chorus, consider a day in September 2024. Our chorus had been invited to participate in the Meridian Arts Day event, held outside in a popular Boise-area park. The chorus had a call time of 9:30 am and performed in the bandshell. Diane was there early to help with the set-up. We then ran an interactive booth all day, where we taught tags to interested community members. She stayed until late afternoon singing with community members, encouraging them to try different parts, and inviting them to come sing with us

for the holiday season. We had a short break and then were off to the Warhawk Air Museum where we sang for a private party celebrating a Marine's 100th birthday. At 86 years old, Diane participated in the entire day. We were short on leads and so Diane changed her plans and made sure that she was there.

Recently, the Idaho Press ran a front-page article on our chorus, and as part of this article, they interviewed Diane, alongside our youngest member, a 12-year-old who Diane has mentored. In fact, for this young girl's recent birthday, Diane helped arrange for her to be presented with her very own pitch pipe.

This is just one of many examples of how Diane connects with and inspires all members of our chorus. She embodies the spirit of Sweet Adelines with her warmth, welcoming attitude, and through the way she mentors and nurtures guests and new members. She always strives to improve and is open to change!

At appropriate times, Diane might stand up and tell stories of how it was 50 years ago in the organization, or how she and her quartet members costumed themselves for the stage. (One of her favorite stories is how she and many other chorus members got trapped in a stuck elevator at contest and had to be rescued by some good-looking firemen.) She embodies the continuity of our chorus. Diane does more than is asked. She fully supports both of our annual fundraisers, bakes at home for our bake sale, and she generously stores items, transports them to location, and works on wrapping all the baskets for our Silent Auction. If something happens in chorus, chances are you'll find Diane there.

Sweet Adelines is built and thrives on the backs of the small choruses. Without them, we wouldn't be what we are today. This entire organization relies on members like Diane, the ones behind the scenes, the ones encouraging us all to be better, the ones in small choruses who will give their all to make sure their one small chorus is brilliant and successful. She is a true leader, loving, generous, full of love and joy from her heart out to the world. She does this through dedication and song. She inspires us all to be the best we can be and she truly embodies what it means to be a Sweet Adeline.

Submitted by: Gail Straker, Capital City Sound Chorus