

## TEAM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

### REGIONAL ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING 2021



The responsibility of overseeing the needs and activities of this Region over the past 12 months has weighed heavily on the shoulders of this small group of volunteers. Our life and work experiences that we each bring to our roles, in no way included how to deal with running an organisation during a world-wide pandemic.

New Zealand has had an easier time than most countries in the world through 2020 and thus far into 2021 and for that we all know how lucky and blessed we are. But the effect Covid-19 has had on our lives is evident, we are not as emotionally resilient as we were 18 months ago and that's a fact. We must continue to look out for each other, to be there for our friends and riser buddies, to support singers and leaders alike in our choruses.

Congratulations must be given to chorus leaders who have navigated their way through the past year to keep their choruses ringing with sound and activity. We on the RMT know the challenges you have overcome to provide for the needs of your members. Congratulations to the members who have kept on attending rehearsals via Zoom or in person, who have continued to learn music and support each other and their leaders.

Throughout this unusual time the Region was still able to keep things ticking over; we had wonderful online celebrations of the awards usually presented at our annual event; we were able to offer education in the form of Region 35 focussed Zoom education classes from International personnel, administrative leader education from incredibly talented Region 34 faculty delivered over several Saturdays and some very successful one-day workshops. We will continue to offer this popular style of workshop and other education to the region as the year unfolds.

Our international family has faced extremely challenging times, and it is only now, a year after Covid began to close down the world, that a few of the overseas groups are beginning to get back together. Can you imagine not having been at your chorus rehearsal for over a year?!

Sweet Adelines International have suffered a huge financial loss as a result of income streams being cancelled such as International Convention and the International Education Symposium as well as the impact of a drop of the number of members. They have adjusted staffing and expenses in response to this situation and have had to delve into reserves to keep moving forward. However, on a positive note we have seen a huge increase in education modules on the international website that I do hope you or your chorus leaders have been using, and will continue to use, to benefit our members.

In the midst of all the upheaval last year the RMT connected via Zoom with Team Coordinators and Directors from around the region to plan our way forward. There was astounding enthusiasm within the group, an absolute need expressed for a national gathering in 2021, in order to keep the focus of members. I was amazed over those Zoom calls, on the level of positivity evident. Your chorus leaders kept the heart of the region beating loudly by providing many and varied rehearsal methods keeping the spirits high and the learning happening.

Our Chapter at Large members have remained involved throughout this most unusual year, and many are here this weekend to take part in a chorus or quartet performance or to be part of the STAR (Singing Together at Regional) Chorus. I thank them for their continued participation as an integral part of our membership.

Again, this year the Regional Management Team has had the continued support of our Resource Team; Fy Dunford, Katrina Te Punga, Sharon Connor, Sandy Gunn, Chika Deane, Carol Jager, Lesley Standring, Susanna La Rue, Ruth Carson, Leanne Wheeler, Trish Veen, Nicola Kirkup, Angela Blank, Patti Cooke, Robyn Abernethy and Kathy Jamieson. We thank you for your dedication to doing what was needed over this past year.

I would like to acknowledge Nic Giles and Virginia Humphrey-Taylor who served on the Regional Management Team during 2020 and thank them for the wonderful work they did in their respective roles on the Team. In May 2020 Jenny Edwards took on the role of Communications Coordinator and you are possibly meeting her for the first time today in that role. We welcome Julie Mansell who joined the team in June last year as our Finance Coordinator. She has truly had a baptism of fire in her role this past 10 months. Most recently we have welcomed Carolyn Currington to the role of Director's Coordinator in 2021. One of Carolyn's first priorities is to begin work with the help of Directors and others, to create for the Region an efficient way to use the Song Assessment Tool recently launched by Sweet Adelines International. Using the Song Assessment Tool is necessary as a way of ensuring all material we perform is appropriate for our audiences.

We are still seeking applicants for the role of the Events Role that Sarah Bennett is stepping down from this weekend. Sarah we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your work on the RMT. Sarah has done a truly remarkable job during her time on the team, refining just what it is we need from an Events Coordinator who is not involved with convention. Sarah's role is all about booking venues and other needs for workshop or meeting purposes, all of which can be done from the comfort of your own home, it just requires some organisational and computer skills. Please consider putting yourself forward for this role as we need a full team to ensure the optimum number around the table for decision making and future planning. We only meet twice a year face to face currently and other meetings as necessary are held via Zoom.

I need to acknowledge the work and dedication of the Regional Management Team in full, Kerry, Miriam, Sarah, Carolyn, Julie, Jenny and Jo. It has been a difficult year as stated earlier, but without the commitment by each of you this Region would not be in the good health that it is. Thank you for the countless hours of work you each give willingly to ensure we can keep the music ringing around our fair shores.

I am so happy to be here today to say 'welcome'! Welcome to Harmony Aotearoa – we made it! Thanks must go to Jacqui Binnie our Convention Coordinator who has had to invent so many processes to put together this unique convention, I can't imagine the thousands of hours this has taken to plan and execute! Kerry Stewart and Miriam Spragg in their roles have also had major input to this event and I thank them for their dedication. For the first time we will be webcasting our sessions and an International Panel will be providing feedback to all performing groups, we thank them wholeheartedly for their participation. There is also a long list of other volunteers who have worked as part of the Convention Team, ably led by Clare Piper and we thank you all, we cannot hold a convention without you.

Through the work of Jacqui and her team, this weekend we get to take part in a massed sing, to sit in a stunning auditorium and be entertained by the talents of our fellow singers, to gather for a Saturday night party to catch up with friends from across the country, to sing, dance, and enjoy the atmosphere only an Afterglow provides and then on Sunday we have education classes! A true demonstration of Sweet Adelines Strong!



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