



Celebrating 75 years of Sweet Adelines

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Monday Memory: 50 Years and Still Goin'!

50 years and still lovin' Sweet Adelines! I can hardly believe how fast the...decades have flown by since I was first introduced to our great organization. In 1969 my husband was stationed in the Navy in Northern California. After I danced on his Napa Valley Chorus Men's Barbershop show, I remember this petite little lady coming up to me and asking who had done my choreography to which I answered that I had. She then asked if I could work with her Sweet Adelines chorus. I replied, "Oh, you mean there is a women's side to all of this"? Well, now I jokingly say it was all downhill after that!

Little did I know she was a certified music and showmanship judge by the name of Jean O'Neill. She taught me all the rules and regulations and it was then I realized I needed to make the music dance and not dance to the music! Like all of us would do, she invited me to join her Napa Valley Chorus, but unfortunately, I taught dance on their chorus night so was only able to choreograph their contest tunes. Shortly after, we moved to Cincinnati when my husband's tour of duty ended. Now this is gonna make you laugh...I continued to choreograph for her chorus, using reel to reel tape recordings and described the moves and appropriate attitudes. No Zoom in sight, but it worked!

The next step in my Sweet Adelines life is one from which we can all learn. Persistence in sharing our "hobby" is sometimes a necessity to getting new members. My 3-year old's nursery school teacher was a member of Clermont Valley Sweet Adelines in Cincinnati and had to ask me about five times to go with her to rehearsal. It amazes me that, although I loved my previous experience with Sweet Adelines and really loved to sing and dance, I was reluctant to find time in my busy life. I finally joined but had no idea at the time it would be so personally rewarding.

Well, needless to say, the next 50 years have been amazing. I moved to Louisville, Kentucky, joined a Sweet Adelines chorus, sang Lead in the Regional Champion and International Finalist Quartet, Harmony Highlights, for many years with my best friends. I have been on the Regional and International faculty, in the judging program and taught choreography and showmanship classes at many Regional and International Schools and have loved coaching quartets and choruses around the country. I am a Certified Director and the Associate Director and Choreographer for the Pride of Kentucky Chorus which is looking forward to competing in International competition in 2021! We are still looking forward, however, to welcoming all of you to Louisville, Kentucky in 2023!

Footnote: Although my husband often said he created a monster by introducing me to this wonderful "hobby", it has been, and still is, a creative outlet and joy that has enriched my life, family and soul and continues to allow my heart to sing...and dance! Thank you Sweet Adelines for the music and friendships through the years...keep singin'!

Betty Lou Coleman, Associate Director and Choreographer
Pride of Kentucky Chorus, Louisville, Kentucky

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