



On, July 13th the Heart of Illinois Chorus hosted a retreat for choruses in our area. We were fortunate to have Bonnie Fedyski and Amy Brinkman from the Choral-Aires work with us. Fittingly, we sang "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" and sing we did! From 10 AM until noon, we soaked up all the advice we could about posture and vocal production, interspersed with laughter. After our break, we worked again learning about riser placement.

The day of the retreat, July 13, also happened to be Barbershop Harmony day. A great time was had at lunch with our new friends! Two beautiful cakes arrived, and we sang "Happy Birthday" to Sweet Adelines to celebrate the beginning of our wonderful organization! (Our video is posted on the Hearts' Facebook page if you want to see it!)

Such an amazing experience, unfortunately, had a downside. We had to relinquish this impressive 64-voice chorus. On a positive note, this event did encourage all of us to work harder on recruitment although there WAS talk of having a Central Illinois Chorus! Sorry, Iowans!

Participants at the retreat included Sound Celebration, Toast of Champaign, Metro Mix, East Central Harmony, O-Town Sound, Vermillion Valley Chorus, Melodeers, River City Sound Chorus and the Choral-Aires. And we can't forget to mention the many Heart of Illinois Chorus members and guests.

Here are a few examples of comments made by participants – "I would like to thank you for allowing me to attend today's retreat. it was wonderful and ... all the Hearts were very gracious... My Sweet Adeline career started with the Heart of Illinois Chorus and they will always hold a very special place in my heart. This was a wonderful learning tool today for me and I will be passing a lot along to my director in Florida... Again, thank you for welcoming us with open arms!" Devohna (Dee) Burks O-Town Sound, Orlando. "I had a great time! Singing, reuniting with friends, fantastic faculty - and all the frosting!!" Janet Clark, Region 5. "What fun to be in a "big" chorus even if just for a day. Thanks to all who made that possible!" Vivian Deppert Gerrietts, Heart of Illinois Chorus. "What a fun day. Hope we can do it again. Wonderful seeing so many old friends." Gena Churney, Choral-Aires. And YES! The management team has decided to make this an annual event!

A notable learning point from this coaching session demonstrated large choruses contend with some of the same issues as smaller choruses. We, as individual chorus members, should strive to continue to learn and take personal responsibility for efforts to grow and improve. Through renewed passion and energy for quality performance, next year when we have our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual All-Chorus Retreat, we will be able to focus on additional facets to those discussed and learn more about the musical passion we all share!

The Hearts are in SHOW mode! We've got LOTS going on and there's room for more on our risers!!! Come see us on any Tuesday night at 6:30 at ICC's Performing Arts Center! We'll save a spot for you!

Heart Hugs!

*The Hearts*



From  
Our

