

Shining Star Award 2016

Northern Lights Region Six is proud to present this new award for the second time this year. The recognition is to honor one amazing woman from within our region who embodies the spirit of our organization and displays considerable impact on her chorus, the region and beyond.

Award Recipient: BONNIE RUST



Bonnie joined Fargo Chorus and SAI in 1968 and is after moving to the Twin Cities an active member of City of Lakes chapter.

She has been busy volunteering and having a positive impact on our region for approximately 38 years. Here are some numbers:

- Regional Board of Directors 1979-1997
- Regent 1981-1983
- Competition Coordinator 1984 to 1987
- Director of Musical Activities (DMA) 1997 to 1999
- Panel Secretary 1999 to 2003

Bonnie is currently serving as the Regional Librarian, in charge of all materials (purchasing, cataloging, communicating and lending/mailling). She is always on the look out to purchase and add new helpful materials to our library that will help regional choruses to improve and enjoy our 'craft'. In addition, she promotes these tools to the membership whenever possible.

Bonnie is also an active member of the Regional faculty, making visits to all areas of our region to help with administration, goal setting, and general health of all our choruses.

Her legacy for the region includes coordinating the 1983 newly formed Regional Administration Faculty program and developing and implementing (together with a member of Twin Forks Chapter) the Faculty visit program in 1984, which is going strong to this day. Bonnie continues to coordinate this program by not only handling all the logistics but also by keeping detailed logs of the visits. She maintains open communication and acts as liaison between the choruses and the faculty to ensure that every issue can be addressed and resolved.

In 2015 Bonnie coauthored a faculty handbook with guidelines to help future and present faculty members implement their duties. She also spearheaded and designed a faculty evaluation form to ensure faculty members are adhering to the high-quality standards of the visit program.

Two years ago, she set up a director mentor program for directors new to regional contest to help them learn the ropes from a more experienced director. On chapter level Bonnie has served as President, Board member, Chorus newsletter editor, and multiple times as International Steering Committee Chair. She was member of the Director Search team when Mary Dick retired and composed guidelines and kept records of the process for future use. About 5 years ago she initiated a past-member communication list including researching long lost contacts. Now she meticulously maintains this list and shares chorus related information several times a year.

Bonnie's dedication to the organization and her chorus is legendary. Her attendance at rehearsals, shows, and sing-outs is close to 100%. Except for an illness Bonnie has never missed a Regional Competition, music school or meeting. She attends as many chorus shows around the region as possible to show her support.

Bonnie embodies the spirit of our organization perfectly. Her inspiration comes from her generous spirit, her commitment to service, and her belief in the power of music. Because of her positive attitude, kind heart, and always encouraging demeanor everyone looks to her for help, guidance or as a resource of trusted knowledge. Her follow through and dependability is exceptional. Her personality inspires others and gives confidence to team members and anyone she works with. Bonnie has impressive organizational skills, always rises to the occasion, and as a role model sets an example for all those around her to emulate. With focus on the future she loves creating opportunities for our organization as well as our individual members to grow and be successful. Countless Sweet Adelines in our region have benefitted by her thoughtful and motivating mentorship.

Her leadership positions have given Bonnie the opportunity to make many friends in the region and the ability to touch and inspire many lives. Her hard work, selfless contribution and dedication to SAI and particularly to our region make her truly a Shining Star.

Northern Lights Region 6 presents the Shining Star Award 2016 with admiration and gratitude for her unyielding dedication and compassionate service over the years to Bonnie Rust.

“Congratulations, Bonnie!”