

The Shining Star Award is an exceptional award for an exceptional Sweet Adeline. Northern Lights Region 6 is proud to present

Northern Lights Shining Star 2017

Mary Dick



Mary Lois Dick, a woman of enormous talent, integrity, compassion and generosity has been a Sweet Adeline for 55 years.

Mary has touched the lives of everyone in Region 6 from her early accomplishments to today. She sang Lead in the Note-Cracker Sweets Quartet, the 1964 International Quartet Champion. She directed the City of Lakes Chorus for 38 years, from 1964 to 2002. Mary has made hundreds of Regional Faculty coaching visits, conducted thousands of PVI's (personal voice instruction) and mentored singers and directors across the Sweet Adeline International organization.

With Mary as director of the City of Lakes Chorus, the chorus achieved countless regional and International medals, including four 2nd place medals in 1983, 1985, 1992 and 1998. Mary continues as a chorus member and close adviser and coach to the chorus and to Scott Kvigne, current director.

Mary has served on the Region 6 Faculty continuously since being DMA (Director of Musical Activities) in 1970. She is a Region 6 Faculty Specialist and International Faculty Emeritus, well known for her pedagogy in teaching voice. She has written and delivered a wealth of classes at the Regional and International Level, including being a

director at the International Education Symposiums sponsored by the organization. Her teaching specialties include the following:

- Vocal Production / PVI's
- Chorus and Quartet coaching
- Directing Techniques
- Section Leader Training
- Riser Placement
- Interpretation
- Judging categories of Sound and Expression
- Taking the Chorus / Quartet to the next level.

Mary's knowledge and adherence to classical training have remained of highest quality due to her experience and life-long pursuit of the best education. She tests every new idea and she ensures that no singer receives misinformation. Mary faithfully attends Sweet Adeline education events where she respectfully questions, applies and incorporates the best practices which benefit Region 6 and the International organization.

The entire Sweet Adeline world of teachers, directors, quartets and singers seek out Mary when there is need for consultation or making musical decisions. Mary is approachable and helpful. She willingly accepts assignments to teach, and she readily cooperates in co-teaching and mentoring situations.

Mary has coached many quartets and two quartets became International Quartet Champions. Music Gallery became Queens of Harmony in 1982 and 4-Star Collection became Queens of Harmony in 1997. In addition to being an International Quartet Champion with Note-Cracker Sweets in 1964, she sang in the Harmony Bazaar Quartet, Region 6 Champions in 1974. They also performed on a USO tour.

Mary has been a long-standing member and performer with the Coronet Club, an organization of past quartet champions. The group performs in their annual shows at the International Conventions. Mary has also taken her turn at directing the Coronet Club Chorus and was a faculty member at some of the Queens' Colleges, sponsored by the Coronet Club. Mary and her daughter Heidi also directed the Family Chorus at the Detroit International Convention in 2005.

Mary has a unique commitment and dedication to Sweet Adelines and Region 6. She has attended every Region 6 Faculty workshop since its inception. She makes regional events and education a top priority on her calendar. Mary fully participates in discussion, planning and assisting others in leadership roles. As a regional faculty member, she has taken an average of at least 6 trips a year to visit choruses with coaching and educational retreats. She has taught classes at the summer retreats called "Camp Rainbow", Director Education weekends and other Regional Education weekends for chorus members. Mary is THERE!

Outside the Sweet Adeline world, Mary continues her own voice lessons and practices her art in the Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity, where she has held many offices including that of president. She is also a member of and has performed at Thursday Musical, a musical performance club. Mary also provides music to her church by singing in the church choir, singing solos and singing duets or trios with her daughters Heather and Heidi.

Mary is a certified vocal instructor with a private practice in her home. She also pursues music education in workshops and training in college settings. She is well known in the music community of the Twin Cities, wherein she not only engages with colleagues, but is a respected role model for the Sweet Adeline organization. She has the rare ability to network at top levels while maintaining her own values of friendship and sharing. She is the epitome of the choral director, not only for specific skills, but also for her ability to bring out the talents within a large chorus of 100+.

It's easy and yet challenging to describe Mary's personal qualities. Family and friends have shared their feelings, all of which describe their love for Mary. Comments include loyal friend; personal dignity; sharing and caring; tactful mentor; unselfish; loving and inspirational.

There is not a person alive who has met or worked with Mary that would not consider her their friend. She is the epitome of gracious friendship, always giving and looking for a way to help. She is unselfish in giving of herself to instruct, encourage, reassure, trust and support singers, teachers and anyone who stands in need. Mary is the person who, with ultimate style and grace, freely gives the world her talents, friendship and love.