

Northern Lights Region 6

Shining Star 2018



Judy Olson

Northern Lights Region 6 is proud to present this year's award to Judy Olson.

Judy Olson has been a Sweet Adeline for 53 years. She has always been a member of this region and shaped it with her enthusiasm, energy and all her many contributions.

Judy grew up in a musical family in Fargo, ND and graduated with a degree in Music Education from North Dakota State Univ. After graduation she taught junior high school vocal music in the Minneapolis area and discovered Sweet Adelines, joining City of Lakes chorus. When she moved back to Duluth, she continued her barbershop journey while teaching school, singing with Duluth Harbor Chords Chorus and organizing both a girl's barbershop chorus as well as a boy's barbershop quartet. When Judy moved back

to the Twin Cities she rejoined City of Lakes and quickly became their assistant director and choreographer.

In 1981 Judy accepted the position of Director of the Twin Cities Show Chorus. A position she held until retiring as frontline director in 2017. Judy remains an assistant director and active singer in the bass section. Judy earned her Master Director status at the Region 6 Convention in 1998. Under her direction Twin Cities Show Chorus won 9 Regional Championships and represented the region on international stage.

Judy is an accomplished singer and performer. She sang lead with Sunshine Special quartet, winning the Regional Quartet championship in 1980. The quartet also did a two-week tour with the USO. Outside the Sweet Adeline world Judy sang many years alto with the mixed quartet the Nostalgics, as part of the 'Classic Big Band & the Nostalgics' and continues to fill in as an occasional sub.

Judy has given many years of service and remains a member of the Region 6 Faculty. She was also part of the Regional Board of Directors, serving as Director Coordinator and Director of Musical Activities. She is a sought after coach, teaching performance technique, expression, and stagecraft to both choruses and quartets in the region and beyond.

Judy was also a member of the SA International faculty for many years sharing her expertise.

Judy always fosters a spirit of cooperation, giving unconditional support to choruses and directors in the region. She tirelessly promotes activities within the region, organizing the popular multi chorus summer performance 'Harmony Explosion' and other successful collaborations.

One of Judy's special interest and passion is to promote the barbershop style to young people. She is a strong supporter of the Young Women in Harmony program of SAI, as well as an advocate and mentor to young singers in general. Judy was instrumental in conducting many educational programs in the community and creating performance opportunities for young women.

Judy brings joy, enthusiasm and energy to everything she does. She is fiercely dedicated to bringing out the best in everyone and her encouragement and selfless support are exemplary. Judy always builds teamwork, loyalty and friendship within her circle of influence. She is kind, generous, dependable and steady in her judgement. Her positive spirit and seemingly boundless energy are infectious. Judy is always available to give advice, counsel and willingly shares her talent with all Sweet Adeline members.

Judy, we marvel at all your accomplishments and are grateful for your dedication to the region throughout the years. You are a true Shining Star. Congratulations!