

Region 6 is proud to have so many amazing women who embody the spirit of our organization and have considerable impact on their chorus, our region and beyond...with so many 'stars' all around us the Regional Management Team thought it was a perfect time to implement a new tradition with a brand new award, aptly called the Northern Lights Shining Star Award!

This award is a once in a lifetime achievement. Each chorus has the ability to nominate a candidate for consideration once a year.

Northern Lights Shining Star Award criteria:

- Displays dedication and commitment to promote and embody the "Harmonize the World" motto with considerable impact
- Gives her time, talents, and skills generously and selflessly
- Serves to the best of her abilities for the joy of singing and the love of the organization
- Takes an active role at chapter level, participates actively in both chorus and regional activities and functions
- Shows interest in, attends or serves at educational events offered to the membership
- Presents and promotes her chorus, the region, and SAI in the best and most positive way to the general public as a wonderful ambassador
- Demonstrates superior dependability and 'follow through', loyalty, and enthusiasm and is an inspiration to fellow Sweet Adelines

By broadening the focus on the *spirit* and not exclusively on leadership at Regional level, outstanding women in the region can be recognized who continue to advance Sweet Adelines International in their chorus, communities and beyond.

Award Recipient 2015 Carol Grimmer

Carol is the founder of the Minnesota Valley Chorus, chartered in March, 1975, celebrating 40 years of harmony this year. She has been the sole director of the chorus and under her direction the chorus has entered competition every year receiving numerous awards.

Carol is especially savvy about recognizing ability of others and the potential of the chorus as a whole.

To quote a chorus member: Carol touches our lives with her unending passion for every aspect of making our chorus the best it can be. Our chorus is the very heart of Carol. When her heart is weak, chorus strengthens her.

Carol served as Director of Music Activities for the Region and currently serves on the Regional Faculty and the Regional Advisory Team, which helps develop all of the educational activities of the region. Carol coordinated the first Camp Rainbow and continued to plan, write classes, organize, and manage all of the succeeding camps.

She wrote and arranged the original song, "Rainbow", for the region.

Carol served on the International Faculty for many years preparing scripts and making presentations at International education events.

Carol has attended every convention since 1974, she has taught at numerous regional Schools and workshops; she has coached widely in Region 6, and other regions as International faculty.

She has been a vital supporter of education for Young Women in Harmony as well as coordinating a Youth in Harmony workshop with the local Society chorus. She has directed and taught the annual Girl Scout Harmony badge workshop for the past 13 years.

She received the Sweet Adelines International MENC Award in 2004 for her work with high school choirs and her commitment to bringing barbershop style music to young singers and new audiences. She taught in the Mankato public schools for 31 years, conducting girls' and boys' quartets and choruses. She sponsored a young singer's quartet, Barbara's Shop, for the Rising Star contest in 2004, and she also served on the Young Singers Foundation Scholarship Committee.

Carol continues to attend faculty meetings, regional schools, competitions, and special meetings in spite of a health crisis in 2013.

Her dedication to the Minnesota Valley chorus is exceptional, and it is this dedication that enabled her to return to good health. Carol is a dreamer who has aspirations for musical excellence. She has a wry sense of humor, is willing to take planned risk, and she has a kind heart.

Thank you Carol for your unending dedication to your chours, Northern Lights Region 6 and Sweet Adelines International!