

## **Talk to your kids... They ARE listening**

### Results from the Young Diva Survey

Our recent and well-received Young Diva Survey generated some very interesting results.

We were delighted by the number of young women who wanted to be involved with Sweet Adelines so they could spend more time with their mothers, as one young woman said, "I had more fun than anywhere else. Plus, it gave me extra time with my mom, which I was desperate for." Another said, "I always loved singing, especially in harmony, and it was something I could do with my mother."

Many survey responses were similar to, "My mom convinced me to give it a try... but I found better friends there than I did in high school," and "My grandmother talked me into going to rehearsal, where I fell in love with the music." Another one said, "My mother always brought music into our home... I learned to harmonize at an early age."

It seems that if we get barbershop music into the blood of our next generation, they will be hooked on a healthy habit for life, and may avoid being led astray toward more destructive behaviors. Spending quality time with family is very important to young people, and what better way to bond than by singing together?

Several of the participants of the survey commented on how the chorus had become their extended family, "I moved to Atlanta and had no family... it was an immediate family!" And some even felt 'adopted' by multiple 'moms,' "It was like being adopted by 20 moms who were all wonderful and caring!"

The 'many moms' theme was repeated often, "Though I am thousands of miles away from home, I still have many 'moms' I can turn to," "I have 120 moms! Everyone always cares," and "I consider the women of Region 3, and especially the Melodeers, as close family. I had at least 500 mothers... it was a very special way to grow up."

It sounds like some young women might not have considered joining without someone they knew alongside them, "The fact that my mom and sister joined too had a big impact on my decision because I probably wouldn't have joined if I hadn't known anyone."

Several young women were obviously not very excited about the idea of singing in Sweet Adelines, until they gave it a try, "My godmother introduced and brought me to a few Sweet Adelines rehearsals and I was hooked."

Once they were hooked, the young women obviously enjoyed the friendships, the fun and the outstanding music education they received, "The women are some of the sweetest I've ever met, and I learned more in that year than I have in 10 years of voice lessons." Another said, "I went to a cast party... it was wonderful to be with so many experienced singers and learn from them. That's something you don't get at school."

Still others continued to extol the music education they got at chorus rehearsals, "Sweet Adelines is very, very educationally advanced. I found that I didn't like how a lot of the more traditional singing venues seem afraid to learn new things," and "Sweet Adelines is

much more affordable than private voice lessons, equally as beneficial and a lot more fun!”

Several commented that they wanted to try barbershop because it was ‘different’ “Barbershop is something you don’t really hear often, its fun to do something different,” commented one young woman, and “The music was amazing and like nothing I had ever heard before,” said another.

So, it seems our children and young adults are listening to us, and want guidance and quality time with us, and it doesn’t matter whether they want to go to rehearsal or not... if we can get them there, they will most probably like it!

And finally, one quote made us all smile, “... I realized that barbershop is a lot better than the Backstreet Boys.”