

2016 Region 5 Spirit Award Recipient Joan Roberts Groves, Chapter-at-Large

Presented by 2015 Recipient Leslie Galbreath

The Spirit of the Midwest region “Spirit Award” is an exceptional honor. It is bestowed upon those who consistently display enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to promoting our shared “Harmonize the World” theme through service to our region and to the larger organization. It is especially meaningful because nominations are made by a member of the region—a peer—in a formal recognition of the nominee’s service and contributions to the organization over time.

This year’s winner is a 25-year member of Sweet Adelines. She is a strong and reliable leader. She’s held president or team leader positions in the three choruses she has sung with. She makes a habit of visiting choruses throughout the region. She has served on the RMT and competition steering committees in several roles. She frequents music schools, international competitions, and advantages herself of international education opportunities. She has served on two regional leadership transition teams helping dissolve Region 20 and, just a few years later, to expand Region 5. She is mindful of scarce fiscal resources, the time and talents of our many volunteers, and committed to smooth transitions and excellent experiences.

As mentioned previously, she has sung with three different choruses. In fact, at one point during her chorus life, she made a four-hour round trip commitment to rehearsals and performances. She’s not currently actively singing in a chorus, but remains deeply engaged in and supportive of the region and its choruses and quartets.

Leadership assumes many forms and requires an array of talents. I can say from first-hand experience that this year’s Spirit Award winner is truly unflappable. Within moments of arriving early to an event site, she and I were evacuated to a tornado shelter where we spent the next hour and a half being serenaded by indoor alert systems and outdoor tornado sirens. We did have the good fortune of sheltering in the food service pantry along with the executive chef and counted ourselves lucky that we weren’t sheltered in the men’s room. She was utterly nonplussed by this unexpected adventure. When the all-clear sounded, she simply and calmly resumed preparations for the arrival of a couple hundred singers.

In the words of her nominee: “She is trustworthy, hard-working, dedicated, giving, caring, has a great lead voice, and is a wonderful friend to many. She is a great example to the “outside world” of our organization – [she] IS Sweet Adelines!”

It is my deep honor to introduce your 2016 Spirit Award winner, your 2016 RMT Events Coordinator and 2016 Chair of the Regional Competition, Joan Groves!