IMPORTANT DATES

2023

- April 17 Women of Note Friends and Family Night
- April 30 <u>Toast of Tampa/Heralds of Harmony Show</u>
- May 4 7 Regional Competition
- July 13 Diamond Division Quartet Contest
- July 14 16 Queens College
- Oct 30 Nov 4 International Convention Louisville

2024

- May 16 19 Regional Competition **2025**
- April 4 6 Regional Competition **2026**
- April 15 19 Regional Competition

Team Coordinator Corner

Hello, Fabulous Region 9!

It's contest season and we are all excitedly preparing to come together in May! This is time of focus and preparation, but also reflection.

Recently, I competed with the Orange Blossom Chorus in the Sunshine District contest. When we took the stage, it was clear that the judges weren't ready for us. This resulted in the chorus standing on the stage for what might have seemed like an eternity had it not been for the support of the audience who continued to cheer and joke and feed energy to the chorus. That support transformed what could have been a very awkward performance into a championship performance. They made us feel at ease and excited to perform for them.

Since that weekend, I have been reflecting on the tremendous impact that the audience has on the performer.

We talk at length about sending our energy to the audience, but isn't the reverse true as well? Can I, as an audience member, send my energy to the performer so much so that I become part of their performance? Would that elevate my experience as an audience member? Of course, the answer to all these questions is YES!

For contest this year, I am personally challenging myself, not only as a performer, but also to be the best audience member I can be and to soak up the joy that synergy creates. I look forward to participating in every performance as we sing our hearts out in Daytona.

Best wishes to all and see you very soon!

Gayle Burton

Volunteers Needed

Have you enjoyed this publication? Would you like to see it grow and flourish? Are you a closet author who would get a charge out of seeing your work in "print"? Are you good at delegating and following up with folks to make things happen? If so, have we got an opportunity for you!!!

We are looking for volunteers to help with Nine on Line. The time involved would be minimal, around 5 or 6 hours per quarter. And as the saying goes. "Many hands make light work."

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Maria Maxwell at communications@coastalharmony.org.

A Rookie's Perspective



This past year has been a whirlwind. I can't believe that less than two years ago I sang barbershop for the first time, and 14 months later I was on the International stage with Spirit of the Gulf chorus, about to be named as the 5th place finalist. I remember standing on the white carpet with the lights shining down on us and thinking, "Wow! This is so amazing! Let's sing the set again!" The adrenaline and pride to be up there with such amazing singers and sisters in harmony was truly a dream come true. And as I headed home on the flight back to Florida, wearing my 5th place medal, I had to pinch myself and say, "How the heck did this all happen?"

Well, it all started one evening when my friend Dee Dee Kastler said, "Hey! Have you ever sung Barbershop?" You would love it!" I didn't realize how much she was right! I've been singing since I was five (mostly classical and Broadway) and have spent my life involved in and studying music. But growing up, the only Barbershop I knew was from "The Music Man" and the Haunted Mansion at Disney World. Truth be told, I loved hearing those quartets. The tight harmonies gave me chills, and I couldn't get enough. But I didn't know women sang Barbershop until years later when I heard a female quartet in Upstate New York and I was intrigued. However, it wasn't until DeeDee really shared her love of Barbershop (and even let me try on her crown:-) that I understood what it was really all about. I had planned to audition for her husband's chorus but COVID hit, and we all know what that meant. Then in 2021, I moved to Fort Myers for a new job, and I heard Spirit of the Gulf for the first time. Immediately, I was hooked.





I quickly realized joining a Barbershop chorus is a HUGE commitment. Learning lots of new music in a new genre (where my skill of reading music wasn't always my best friend); learning choreography; lots of practice and building stamina; all to get us to competition, was a challenge and exciting. And once we made it to Phoenix, I felt right away that it was worth every minute. Going to my first international competition was one of the best times I can remember having in a long time. The energy in the hotel and the convention center was invigorating. Being around so many outstanding musicians was truly a dream for me. Meeting women from so many places, with such talents, plus seeing their passion for music, as deep as mine, was truly exhilarating. I loved hearing their stories, and how many years they've been singing Barbershop. I felt even more connected when I learned of each person's story and what brought them to Sweet Adelines. I have always been drawn to women's organizations with history and tradition, so I truly felt at home.

As I reflect on my journey from 2021 until today, I realize how I got here... It definitely was a lot of hard work. But truthfully, I recognize that there was also a lot of luck involved. I was lucky enough to live in a city that has such an outstanding chorus with devoted singers and phenomenal directors. And I am blessed to have a friend who introduced me to this world and gave me a place to be a part of it all. Therefore, with of a bit of luck and lots of hard work, I got to be a champion with my fellow Spirit sisters. I am so grateful and proud to be a Sweet Adeline. And I can't wait for exciting challenges and competitions in the future.



Julie Todaro Spirit of the Gulf Chorus

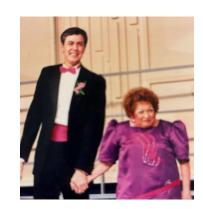
Deena Tanenblatt Brightest Star Award



Did you know that our region presents three special awards during regional competition, two of which are in remembrance of two very special ladies? One of these ladies is Deena Tanenblatt. The Deena Tanenblatt Brightest Star award is presented to the competing chorus attaining the highest showmanship score.

Deena was one of those members that you looked forward to seeing each competition. She had a zest and appreciation for life and her enthusiastic personality was contagious. She was Chair of the Regional Convention in Region 9 from the early 1990s to 2008 and she always had a great big smile when she met every competitor.

In her "real" life, Deena taught as a primary school teacher in downtown New York City, encouraging all of her kids to continually learn new things. She would sometimes change up the lesson plans to cover things in which her class was interested (rather than what she was "supposed" to be teaching), much to the consternation of her school supervisors. She was ahead of her time when it came to teaching her students the meaning of good manners when she put the biggest trouble makers in the class in charge of ensuring proper behavior during the day. Not unexpectedly, music was an integral part of her curriculum. As a reward for good behavior, she would play her guitar and sing with them during the last 30 minutes of the day.





In 1963, Deena's Sweet Adeline life started in Region 15 when she joined the Manhattan Chorus. She transferred to Island Hills Chorus on Long Island a few years later, and it was with them that she won her first chorus gold medal in Los Angeles in 1978! She moved on to Region 19 and became a member of Elkridge (now known as Harbor City Music Company) in Maryland. There, among other things, she served as the Regional Ways and Means Chair and her creative T-shirts were always a big hit. Members of the region couldn't wait to see what she came up with every year. In 1988 she moved to Florida where she joined Toast of Tampa Show Chorus and, in 1993, earned her second chorus gold medal. Seeing her standing on stage beside their director, Randy Loos, to receive their medal is iconic.

We unfortunately lost this bright star in 2001. Her legacy lives on with this special award created by the Lahr family to commemorate her life and her infectious smile.

Introducing Our Regional Finance Coordinator



In real life, **Debbie Thornton**, our Regional Finance Coordinator, was a CPA for seven years and worked as an accounting manager and controller in the private sector for another 18 years. She then earned her master's in Elementary Education and taught middle school math, and also second and third grades in a performing arts K-8 school for 15 years before retiring in 2020.

Debbie joined Sweet Adelines right out of college in 1981 and was a member of the City of Palms Chorus right here in Region 9 for 14 years before leaving to raise a family. She rejoined in December 2019 and is now a member of Spirit of the Gulf, where she also serves on the management team as the Communications Coordinator.

Debbie has been married to her husband, Bill, for 26 years. They first met at a Sweet Adeline show when he was working backstage and then met again five years later in a community musical theater company to which they both belonged, when he finally asked her out. They have two grown daughters who live in Orlando. Sarah Rose is a nurse who is teaching at the University of Central Florida and working on her doctorate. Kate is working as an Architect while completing her master's degree. They also have two goldendoodles, Finnigan and Denver, and enjoy traveling and attending musical theater productions whenever possible.

Debbie is a paper crafter in her spare time designing and making cards and 3-D structures with the help of her Cricut machine. She is currently working on centerpieces and other decorations for her oldest daughter's wedding in December.

Debbie's biggest thrill as a Sweet Adeline was singing on the International stage in Phoenix with Spirit of the Gulf and coming home with a fifth place medal!



Convention Program Ads

There will be a convention program available at contest this year and space is available for choruses, quartets, or individuals to purchase an ad in this program.

Ad sizes and prices: Full Page -8.5 in $\times 5.5$ in (\$100)

Half Page -4 in x 5 in (\$75)

Quarter Page – 2 in x 5 in OR 4 in x 2.5 in (\$50)

Business Card -2 in x 2.5 in (\$30)

Inside Front Cover – 8.5 in x 5.5 in (\$200) Outside Back Cover – 8.5 in x 5.5 in (\$200)

Inside Back Cover - SOLD

The Inside Front and Outside Back Covers will be full-color. All other ads will be black and white.

Acceptable formats for ad copy are JPEG, PDF, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, Adobe Photoshop, or Adobe Illustrator.

Please contact Helen Giallombardo (gsbmedal@comcast.net) with all requests.

Deadline is April 23 at 6 p.m. ET.

Chorus Connection

Venetian Harmony Chorus of Venice, Florida has been "on a roll" lately. Under the coaching of visiting director Betty Meinholz, we have been perfecting our two competition songs to present in Daytona on May 6. Our membership has recently increased as we welcomed new members Jennifer Loadman, Linda Paulhamus, and Rose Sim. In February, we proudly participated in the 100th birthday ceremony of one of the Navy's first commandos, now called a Navy SEAL, by singing the National Anthem before a military ceremony complete with a four-gun salute. In late March, we again will be singing the National



Anthem for an Atlanta Braves ball game during their Spring Training near us. Happy Spring to all our singing sisters. See you in Daytona.

Women of Note wowed a full house with its Valentine-themed show, *Music From The Heart,* at the Lake Worth Playhouse in Lake Worth Beach.

The story began at the hull of the USS Love Boat where four friends celebrated the fourth marriage of Cindy, the bride to be. But along the way, they encountered troubles, mostly provided by Fabrizzio, the handsome Cruise Director of the Love Boat. The Women of Note Chorus, directed by Alex Rubin, provided the love-themed music for the cruise with such notable songs as "Best Day of My Life," "I Can't Give You Anything but Love, Baby," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Love Eyes Medley," "Getting to Know You," and "The Moment I Saw Your Eyes."

Special guests, *Throwback*, Barbershop Harmony Society's 2022 Third Place Medalists, entertained the audience during the second act with their unique sound and blended harmonies. And Sweet Adeline quartets *Sunsation* and *Unplugged* charmed the audience with love songs while **Samantha Mayernik**, on classical guitar, pleased the listeners as well.



Spirit of the Gulf has been busy performing for our community during the first quarter of 2023. After singing on Saturday night for Region 9 at Winter Workshop, Spirit's members headed south to Fort Myers to perform for Cypress Lake United Methodist Church's Concert

Series on Sunday afternoon. Then in February, Spirit performed to a sellout crowd at Shell Point Village. We also collected essential supply items for our local Ronald McDonald House at Golisano Children's Hospital. Next up in the performance area for Spirit is our annual spring show on April 1st at First Christian Church in Fort Myers.



Suncoast Harmony Chorus is so excited to welcome Sheree Muller, our newest Tenor! We were also pleased to have Britt-Helène Bonnedahl, retired director of Rönninge Show Chorus, visit us on February 21. We enjoyed her coaching and learned so much!

Chorus Connection (Cont.)

Southern Company Chorus performed four times at Tampa International Airport in December. It was great fun singing Christmas songs to travelers coming through the airport!





Toast of Tampa members come from all over Florida—from central Florida to the Gulf coast and from Boca Raton to Palm Bay. That makes it difficult for us to connect outside of rehearsals, shows and contests. But in February, fifteen of us, along with family members and many other friends from Region 9 and across the country, spent seven glorious days on Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas.

Tony De Rosa and Clay Hine were the awesome clinicians on our CruiseNSing adventure. Everyone received the music and learning tracks ahead of time, and then we had rehearsals on the ship. It all culminated in a fantastic show in the Royal Theater, complete with Touché and Wildfire as guest quartets. This was the third in a series of cruises since 2016, and the next one is being planned for 2025!

After a several year hiatus, we resurrected our Singing Valentines program this year. One particularly fun delivery was to a member's father at his senior living community. Instead of just singing to him, they quartet was able to make it a mini-concert for all the residents and they were thrilled!





Toast of Tampa is proud of our rich legacy. Randy Loos was our first director, and he led the chorus to an International championship in 1994. Kathy Campbell Parker was one of the members of that championship chorus. She lives in California now and has been battling an aggressive disease for several years. One of the things atop her bucket list was to visit a Toast of Tampa chorus rehearsal. Recently, she and her husband were able to travel to Florida to spend a week with Jolene and Randy Loos. Word was sent out to many former members who were part of Toast of Tampa during that championship, and we ended up having a wonderful spontaneous reunion at our rehearsal.



There were about 20 past members with us that night. We did a lot of reminiscing and ended the night by joining hands and singing "How We Sang Today" under Randy's direction. View the video here. The night was truly a blessing for all who were there!

Excitement is building for our journey to Louisville this fall! As always, we want to thank you, Region 9, for your support.

O Town Sound had a very successful Open Call for Singers March 5, 2023. We had 19 ladies registered, 8 attended and two are continuing with our member candidate program. We will have a daylong retreat April 15. And - we are going to be on stage for at our regional competition!



Chorus Connection (Cont.)

Nine of the **Hilton Head Shore Notes Chorus** members were delighted to receive SAI pins commemorating their many years as Sweet Adelines. Pictured (L to R): Susan Welty - 15 years; Marcia Cornell - 20 years; Iris Christ (Director) - 20 years; Sally Larimer - 40 years (Saratoga Soundtrack); Kathy Jackson - 15 years; Sue Gordon - 35 years (Ramapo Valley); Caroline McVitty - 15 years; Barbara Welsh - 40 years (Song of Atlanta); Fran Russ - 30 years – dual with Bridges of Harmony (Melodeers). That's a lot of years of singing for this chorus of 22 singers!



The Shore Notes are looking forward to competition, having already been coached by Betty Clipman and Kim Higdon. Next they hope to ring chords in their upcoming coaching session with Diane Porsch. By the way, newer members of the chorus who attended Winter Regional were amazed at what a positive, enlightening experience it was. See you all in May!



This has been a busy few months for **Bridges of Harmony!** Preparing to sing for the region immediately after Christmas with seven of our newest members singing for you for the first time, multiple coaching sessions, a fabulous retreat with Diane Porsch, and preparations for contest this May. Coming up...a weekend with Jim Arns!

We wish to congratulate our sister choruses on the membership recruitment successes that you have shared. It's very exciting to see YOUR excitement! The 'Open Audition' and 'Open Call' programs seem to be the ticket, and please don't be surprised if you see us copy you in the near future!!!! A success for one is a success for all.

Quartet Capers

AttiTunes had the opportunity to perform at Tampa International Airport when Southern Company Chorus performed for Christmas travelers in December. We also recently performed nine Singing Valentines plus recorded a Singing Valentine to send to those we could not see. We are working hard on our package for competition in May.





Music is the best way to celebrate! Marmalade Skies quartet, made up of South Florida Jubilee members Kimberly Heilbrun (lead), Sara Battat (tenor), Celeste Burke (bari), and Marty Moore (bass), were honored in December to be a part of both a birthday and a holiday celebration at Covenant Living Retirement community in Plantation, Florida. The birthday concert was a surprise part of a private birthday party where we debuted Celeste's new arrangement of Take Me Out to the Ballgame! It was a huge hit and resulted in a super fun sing-along. Later in the month we did dinnertime serenades in three locations in the community. We wrapped up with an intimate set in a small room next to a baby grand piano. It was a gig to remember.



The Bridges of Harmony Chorus is very proud to announce our newest quartet, **Cantiamo**, Helen Giallambardo (bari), Kim Higdon (lead), Shelley Traficante (bass), and Maddie Higdon (tenor). Cantiamo is Italian for "we sing," and boy, do they! You may have heard them in their debut performance during January Winter Regional when they began the song, *One Voice* for BOH. Wish them luck in their first contest this May!

Ladybug began its journey in 2009. Over the years there have been many ladybugs and each one is very special. This year as we're preparing for contest we're excited to see everyone and doing the usual things. We are coaching, studying, and making finishing touches to costumes but our hearts are heavy. Our Ladybug Elaine spent the first part of the year in Liverpool with her daughter Camille (a veterinary surgeon and epidemiologist) who lost a courageous fight with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Elaine and her husband, Benoit, are the founders of Timucua Arts Foundation in Orlando. A fund was set up to help cover Camille's expenses during treatment. Her family is now using this fund and raising more to repay Camille's student debt. If you can help or would like to learn more about Camille, the Glazer Family, or AML please visit https://gofund.me/94af3e46. To everyone that will cross the stage next month, we wish you luck and hope you have FUN in Daytona! We can't wait to see you there.

DEDICATED DIRECTORS

Iris Christ – Hilton Head Shore Notes **Chorus**



My Sweet Adeline life began in 2002 when I begged a friend to take me to a guest night for the Hilton Head Shore Notes Chorus after hearing them sing at a luncheon. I remember the audition where I was so nervous that I could barely croak out the notes and my heart was beating so hard. I've come a long way since then!

Through the years, I've served on the Shore Notes management team as treasurer and on the music team as choreographer and lead section leader. I also sang tenor for two of those years when another tenor was needed. I completed the Director Certification Program in 2017, became Assistant Director of the Shore Notes, and eventually Associate Director. I've sung with several other choruses as a dual

member, including Bridges of Harmony. I also served for three years on the Region 9 Management Team as Finance Coordinator.

We all love to sing, and most of us love to perform — the very essence of being a Sweet Adeline. As a serious student, I have taken every coaching session available to me over the years, and there is still so much to learn! I love helping other singers improve by sharing what I've learned. Much of that has taken place in the many quartets I've had the pleasure of being in, singing both lead and tenor.

I became a director because of the passion I have for singing, particularly this genre. It thrills me to lead a chorus of my friends on this musical journey to ringing chords and entertaining audiences.

Arrangers of Region 9

In February, the region got exciting news from Sweet Adelines International that one of our own, Kimberly Heilburn, had been advanced to Approved Music Arranger. Congratulations!!!



Jean Flinn



Doris Twardosky



Jan Meyer



Sheryl Neal

Ignite the Sound Region 9 - New Members

A Cappella Bay Show Chorus Elizabeth Jay

Bridges of Harmony Chorus Anna Giallombardo Allison Slipsky

Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus
Heather Barrett
Aubrey Edgar
Susan Kapr
Karen Young

<u>Jacksonville Harmony Chorus</u> Leeann Watson Vera Watson

<u>Platinum Show Chorus</u> Verna Dyer

Sound of Sunshine Chorus Ilona Kersey

South Florida Jubilee
Gail Davis
Brittany Sloan

Southern Company Chorus
Jessica Horner

Spirit of the Gulf Terri Oberlin Kathleen Watkins Wendie Waddell

Suncoast Harmony
Sheree Muller

Toast of Tampa Chorus
Susan Raabe

Venetian Harmony Jennifer Loadman Linda Paulhamus Rosalina Sim

Women of Note Emma Sharp







Convention Volunteers Needed

Just a couple of hours can help tremendously! The following positions need to be filled at a Regional Convention!

- Registration Desk (Saturday, 5 p.m.-7 p.m.)
 - * General information; distributes badges, ribbons, and information packets or forms
 - * Lost & Found
 - * Sells individual event tickets
- Silent Auction (Friday, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., and Saturday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Assists at the display tables by giving instructions on how the auction works or describing items and finalizing closing of the auction and collection of payments.

- Rehearsal Room Monitor (1-hour shifts, Saturday, 7 a.m.-10 a.m.)
 - * Directs choruses to assigned warm-up room
 - * Monitors time allowances for rehearsals
 - * Refreshes rooms between competitors
- Doors

Ballroom Outside Door (Friday, 1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m., and Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.)

Ballroom Inside Door (Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.-last chorus)

Opens and closes ballroom doors per emcee's directions. No one can leave or enter during a contestant's performance. Checks audience for badges or checks for and tears tickets as guests enter.

- Warm Up Room Monitor (Saturday, 1 p.m.-last chorus)
 - Directs to assigned warm-up room
 - Gives 10-minute allowances for warm-up
 - * Refreshes rooms between competitors
- Personal Belonging Assistant (Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.)

Collects belongings from performing members and gives their bags back to them after performance

• Green Room Monitor

Friday ,1:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m., and 3:45 p.m.-last quartet Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m.-last chorus

• Escorts

Bottom Right Ramp Ballroom

Friday, 1:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m., and 3:45 p.m.-last quartet

Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m.-last chorus

Bottom Left Ramp Ballroom

Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m.-last chorus

Top Ramp Ballroom

Friday, 1:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m., and 3:45 p.m.-last quartet

Backstage Door Ballroom

Saturday, 11:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m.-last chorus

Please contact Cynthia Cohen (ironwoman45@aol.com) if you would be interested in helping fill one of these jobs.

Young Singers Unite at Harmony Workshop

What would it take to get 130 high school, middle school, and home-schooled girls and boys to attend a day of a cappella singing in the Barbershop style?



Maybe a day off from school, a tasty pizza lunch or two fine clinicians? Maybe a little of each. On February 21, 2023, The Women of Note Chorus hosted its seventh annual Youth Harmony Workshop at the United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches.

Alex Rubin, Women of Note Director and a standout baritone from *Throwback*, served as the clinician to the boys' chorus. Kim Elger-Griffin, Associate Director of Women of Note and noted bass from *All Fired Up* and a Queen of Harmony *Bling!* assisted the girls' chorus. Adding energy and enthusiasm to the mix, *Spark*, a popular quartet in Region 9, demonstrated the importance of breathing technique and vocal production. Maria, Gayle, Kelley, and Melissa from Women of Note, Spirit of the Gulf, and Sound of Sunshine wowed the group with their mellifluous sounds and perfect harmonies. Giving life to the music through facial expression and body movement was a particular focus of this dynamic quartet.

The all-day workshop introduced teens from Palm Beach and Broward counties to the art of a cappella, four-part harmony singing in the Barbershop style with such arrangements as "When I'm Sixty-Four," "Under the Board Walk," and "That's What Friends are For."



After lunch, where it was all about singing tags between bites of pizza, it was back to vocal production and performance technique to sharpen their skills, all in preparation for their performance for parents and peers later in the day. To the delight of their audience, the teens gave a rousing concert, demonstrating some newly acquired vocal and choreographic skills.

Mary Markovitz



Melodies & Memories

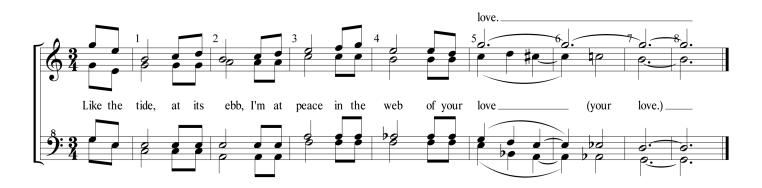


It is with a mixture of gratitude and admiration that the *Judge Specialists Committee* recognizes *Ann Gooch* for her **60** years of service and many contributions to the Sweet Adelines International Judging Program. She has been a trailblazer and dedicated member of the program. It is with great admiration that Ann has now been awarded **Emeritus** status. *Congratulations Ann* and thanks for the memories! Enjoy your official retirement and make some new memories! Ann will be singing with Jacksonville Harmony Chorus at competition!

Tag, You're It!

Click **HERE** to watch Happy Hour Quartet's rendition of this tag!

Ebb-Tide



Regional Management Team

Team Coordinator: Gayle Burton

regional team coordinator@coastalharmony.org

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Finance Coordinator: Debbie Thornton

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Communications Coordinator: Maria Maxwell

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Event Coordinator: Amanda Wreford

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Regional Education Coordinators

Directors Certification Program (DCP) Coordinator – Deanna Kastler (deannakastler8@gmail.com)

Young Women in Harmony (YWIH) Coordinator – Gina Baker (vivalead4@gmail.com)

Arrangers Certification Program (ACP) Coordinator – Jan Meyer (jan.meyer@hotmail.com)