



NINE ON LINE



IMPORTANT DATES

2023

July 9 - [Region 9 & 17 Joint Workshop](#)
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Finale Part 3: More Finale Tips
& Tricks

July 13 - [Diamond Division Quartet
Contest](#)

July 14 - [Rising Star Contest](#)

July 14 - 16 - [Queens College](#)

July 23 - 30 - [BHS Harmony University](#)

Sept 1 - 4 - Sunshine District
Labor Day Jamboree

Oct 13 - 15 - [Sunshine District Convention](#)

Oct 30 - Nov 4 -
[International Convention - Louisville](#)

2024

Jan 9 - 14 - [BHS Midwinter Convention](#)

Jan 26 - 28 - Winter Workshop

Apr 26 - 28 - Sunshine District Convention

May 16 - 19 - Regional Competition

July 24 - 28 - Directors/Visual Leaders
Seminar (Tulsa, OK)

Oct 28 - Nov 2 -
International Convention - Kansas City

2025

Apr 4 - 6 - Regional Competition

2026

Apr 15 - 19 - Regional Competition

Team Coordinator Corner

Welcome to summertime!

I think I speak for everyone when I say that I am looking forward to relaxing and putting this contest in the books.

And what an amazing contest it was!

Watch out International because here comes Region 9!

Not only will Toast of Tampa be bringing down the house in St Louis, but we will be sending three of our Regional quartet competitors (Dynasty, Sirens, and For the Love) and two returning top 15 quartets (Duly Noted and All Fired Up!) for a total of five quartets!

The RMT plans on doing another Media Blast and with so many competitors, we are looking for correspondents who will assist with photos, videos, and interviews. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to assist in this area.

And how about that chorus contest!? We have three choruses who will be invited to compete in Kansas City! Shout out to Spirit of the Gulf, Bridges of Harmony, and Sound of Sunshine.

This contest could not have happened had it not been for the tireless efforts of the countless volunteers who stepped up. I want to offer special thanks to Toast of Tampa and Sound of Sunshine who handled being in the off-site hotels with such grace. Several quartets were also in off-site housing. Some were able to be moved last minute, but Duly Noted, Grin and Tonic, and For the Love all toughed it out...even with NO ELECTRICITY! You ladies are amazing for rolling with the challenges as you did.

We have so much to be proud of.

After just a bit of downtime, the RMT will be back to work! We have planned to hold our July retreat in our new hotel venue where we will review all the post-convention surveys, capture lessons learned, work on our long-range educational strategy, and start to plan the next contest in our new location! We have begun shaping our vision for Region 9 for the coming year.

Team Coordinator Corner (Cont.)

On a personal note, this has been a tremendous year for our Region. We have faced many challenges and experienced tremendous growth. These circumstances, even when they are positive and exciting, can be emotionally draining. It's important that we all take some time to rest and re-energize before we dive in again.

I hope you all have an amazing summer and I look forward to seeing you at our next event (which is already in the works)...more to come!

Many thanks to all of you for your hard work to make this past contest so amazing.

Thank you,

Gayle Burton

Master Director (I get to write that now!)
Region 9 Team Coordinator

Marilyn Rose Most Improved Quartet Award



Marilyn Rose was an International Judge, Director of Sarasota Chorus, and Assistant Director and member of Spirit of the Gulf Chorus. In 2009 she was awarded the title of International Judge Emerita. She passed away July 31, 2009. Spirit proposed to Region 9 that the Marilyn Rose Award be given to the Most Improved Quartet. Marilyn mentored and coached many quartets over the years. She passionately supported Sweet Adelines International's goals of education and achievement.

In order to receive this Award, the quartet would need to meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Must have competed in the prior year's contest.
- ◆ Must have a minimum score of 400.
- ◆ Must have no name change and no more than one personnel change since the previous year.
- ◆ Must score the most points over last year's score.

A traveling plaque is presented to the winning quartet each year.

Past years winners:

2010 - Bling	2016 - On the Edge
2011 - On the Edge	2017 - That Other Quartet
2012 - Sunsation	2018 - Sonore
2013 - Quatro	2019 - 7th Heaven
2014 - On the Edge	2022 - Duly Noted
2015 - Just One Night	2023 - Ta Da!

Stay tuned for the next article about the Buzz Award, initiated by the Buzz Quartet.

The New Kid in the Region - Sound of Charleston Chorus

He finally said, "Yes."

My husband David's attitude of me singing barbershop went from disbelief that I was even interested to him directing a chorus...and it only took 25 years!

Why the change? Honestly, I cannot put an exact time on it. It happened over a couple of decades and just recently took a giant leap.

When our youngest went to college in the fall of 2021, we had a huge hole in our schedules. We made changes. We bought a house at auction and flipped it. We then bought another place, fixed it up, and it is now a short-term rental. Hmm...what to do next?



Though I have been asking since we moved to Charleston in 2008, my husband finally began opening up to the idea of starting a Sweet Adeline International chorus. He directed our church choir in Ohio until we moved away. For ten years, he served as the Music Minister of our church choir. After I stopped directing Hilton Head Shore Notes, I became a long-distance member of Sound of Sunshine. Somewhere between enjoying being director of our church choir and not liking that I have to travel to sing, my husband decided starting a local chorus was a viable endeavor.

It has been interesting singing for my "College of Charleston Professor of Voice" husband. I have no doubt of his skill and talent, but teaching him the "barbershop way" has caused some debate. We found some discrepancies with semantics and some fundamental differences from traditional choral singing. Mostly, we found both were right, but one may work better for a cappella singing. Our goal is to continue to explore the best of barbershop with the best from choral singing. I feel a little like the old Reese's commercials with the chocolate and peanut butter coming together. Both have their unique qualities, but together ...even better.

We are approaching the end of our fourth month of meeting and are just the beginning of feel like a chorus. David still says he is doing it for me, but I see his smile while standing in front of our fledgling ensemble. My corruption is taking hold. I don't think he is a full addict as of yet, but he is well on his way.

Melody Templeton
Assistant Director for Charleston Sound Chorus
www.charlestonsoundchorus.org



To Be in Open Division or Not to Be - That Is The Question!

Are you considering the Open Division. It is challenging, but it is also a lot of fun. Many of you have asked AttiTunes how we choose the songs, write the lyrics, and put the package together. Here is our process.



First, consider a theme that suits your quartet and the audience. It helps to have a story in mind that fits the theme. Any theme has merit. Do some brainstorming and come up with something you consider to be entertaining and then find some music.

Finding music can be as simple as searching the Sweet Adeline published and Arranged Music List. You can also ask an arranger you know. Sweet Adelines International can help you find contact information for arrangers as well. The key is to find music suitable for competition and that shows off your quartet's abilities. (You can change the words later).

Once you have picked some music, submit it to the Assessment Tool to make sure it is acceptable. If you don't know if it is contestable, consider asking an arranger or your director for their opinion. Our region is full of qualified individuals.

Using the theme and singable music, write the lyrics. If none of your quartet members can do this, consider asking for help. When we put the lyrics together, it's like writing a poem that tells a story. There are certain rhyming schemes you can use and just by modifying a few words here or there, you can start building your story. It is rare that we find music where we can use the original lyrics, but it is not impossible. Once written, submit the parody lyrics to the Assessment Tool.

Weave the MC work around the package. Consider good storytelling techniques: Have an opening that introduces the topic, tell the story, close with something that shows the destination of your story. Keep your MC work short and let the music tell your story. Make sure the order of the songs flow together to make a good story.

Costuming should follow the theme so that your visual story is consistent with your musical story. The choreography should enhance the message and not get in the way of good singing. Too much choreography and too little choreography are equally detrimental to your package. Use a coach to help strike the right balance.

Continually sing in front of others to gauge laughter and entertainment value. Ask for opinions. Use a coach who can help not only with the singing but with the packaging as well. The more educated ears you have listening to your product, the better it will be. While practicing constantly time the set and work with the costume. Each costume has it's positives and negatives.



Most importantly, practice having fun with your set. If you are having fun, the audience will have fun. Right after contest, AttiTunes plans for the next fun package. The planning process, in many cases, is just as fun as the contest. We laugh, we make mistakes, we rewrite, and we brainstorm – sometimes all at the same time. Our coach laughs with us and is in our corner every step of the way. We encourage you to consider putting together a package for the open division and have some good old-fashioned fun along the way. Consider joining us in the Open Division next year! We'd love to have the competition!!!

Congratulations to Our Newest Master Directors!



Seven years ago when our beloved Nancy Lewis retired, we were charged with filling her very large shoes and securing not only the success of Sound of Sunshine, but also the continuation of the chorus. It was a daunting time. But timing is everything, because we were fortunate enough that someone had recently moved to the Orlando area who not only ensured our continuation, but also helped us grow into an amazing small chorus with very big dreams.

Gayle Burton came with all the credentials and the spark that lit our fire. Of course, we had some growing pains and we learned to appreciate the “slippers” during contest season (ask her about that sometime). She has taught us and molded us into a dynamic small chorus. She is truly an educator that loves this craft and her passion is second to none. On behalf of the members of Sound of Sunshine, we would like to thank her for her tireless work, dedication, and love that she gives us every week.

We asked Gayle to share her thoughts on becoming a Master Director:

“When I was asked for a quote about becoming a Master Director, just as in that moment when they announced the score, I found myself temporarily speechless and deeply emotional. Like so many small chorus directors, that score is a milestone achievement of great proportion. It requires a chorus who is eager to learn, self-motivated, and trusts their director completely. I could never have achieved this without my loving, supportive, and talented chorus. Sound of Sunshine...this is YOUR achievement.

“I have had the great privilege of working with some amazing educators who I would like to recognize. The first was Jim Casey who ignited the educational fire in my belly and coached every high school choir I ever taught. Many thanks also to Shirly Kout and Dale Syverson for inspiring me; to Janet Ashford for challenging me; and most recently to DeeDee Kastler and Jean Flinn for mentoring and nurturing me toward this goal and many others to come.”

Kim Higdon began her Sweet Adeline’s career in 2007 when she joined and directed the River Valley Chorus, in New York, for seven years. As a member of Saratoga Soundtrack Chorus, Kim was a section leader, and from 2013-2015 she was Assistant Director.

After making Jacksonville her home in 2016, Kim served as Assistant Director of the Jacksonville Harmony Chorus.

In 2017, Bridges of Harmony Chorus was formed. In her first contest as the director of Bridges of Harmony, the chorus scored a 644 in regional competition. Then, in 2019, took 4th place in Harmony Classic in New Orleans, LA. However, due to International rules, her status as Master Director could not be recognized. (International rules indicate a director cannot be granted Master director status if directing a chorus for the first time). This May, Bridges of Harmony competed again in the mid-sized chorus category and earned a score of 618, qualifying Kim as a Master Director 600.

Kim is the lead of Cantiamo quartet, currently Region 9’s 4th place quartet medalists, and is currently a member of the Regional Education Faculty of Coastal Harmony Region, where she actively coaches choruses and quartets.

When she isn’t singing, Kim works for Baker Hughes, where she has proudly served for the past 22 years. Currently, she is the Value Stream General Manager for the Masoneilan product line. If you asked her what her favorite thing about her job is, she would tell you that it is being able to travel the world and make invaluable relationships along the way. Kim is married to, Patrick, is a proud mother of two beautiful daughters (Julia and Madeline), and has one fur baby: Harley. Oh, and don’t forget, Kim is the self-proclaimed BIGGEST Notre Dame Football fan on the planet!

We feel very fortunate to have Kim as our Master Director and musical leader.



Chorus Connection

It's All About Family!

While the **Women of Note** is truly a sisterhood of singers, we don't have too many members that are actually related by blood. Lead, Amy Fisher, has the pleasure of singing with her daughter, Jamie, during contest season when Jamie flies down from New York City to compete with the chorus - but other than that, we're low on family ties - well, we were. This year, the Women of Note welcomed a new lead, Emma Rubin, who not only has the distinction of being our youngest member at the age of 10, but she also happens to be the daughter of our director, Alex Rubin. Emma has grown up with a singing father, a singing uncle, and a myriad of barbershop singers who call her their own, having traveled with Alex and Jen to competitions, rehearsals, and even after-glows! She can certainly stay up later than most of us "older" members!! The chorus was thrilled to have Emma on the competition stage with us this past May, as she effortlessly learned her lead part, the choreography, and how to emote! She even learned how to put on that Sweet Adeline red lipstick, though it's not a shade Jen prefers for her daughter outside of chorus events! We truly love having a father / daughter duo in the chorus and look forward to eventually getting Alex's daughter, Kate, into the mix! We may have a couple of years to wait though as Kate is only 4!



A Tale of Two Harriet's

A Capella Bay Show Chorus was thrilled to return to competition after four years. So much has changed in our chorus and in the world of Sweet Adelines during that time, but the joy we share by singing together is constant. This was the first time for us to compete under our new Director, Lisa Williams, who joined us last August. Says Lisa, "What a fun stress-free contest experience directing A Cappella Bay Show Chorus this first time at regional contest. We had a blast on stage and became a closer-knit chorus because of the wonderful time we had! I'm so proud of us all!" We had twenty members attending the contest this year, including two members whose experience with our organization spans fifty years! New to Sweet Adelines International, bass, Harriet Fuller, attended her very first competition. "I've loved every moment of my first year as a Sweet Adeline," said Harriet. But the pinnacle was my first Regional contest: a road trip with my new friends, soaking in all the fantastic music, sensing that encouraging Sweet Adeline vibe throughout the venue, and of course late-night tag singing!"



Also attending competition this year was Harriett Swartzmiller, who in 2023 is celebrating her fiftieth year as a Sweet Adeline and as a member of our chorus. Harriett said, "As a long-time member, what I have put into the chapter I have gotten back more in so many wonderful ways." A new member such as Harriet is already doing so much and will receive the same rewards.



Venetian Harmony welcomes their new director, Betty Meinholz!



Suncoast Harmony wants to know, "How many Ladies can YOU fit in the Directors room just before getting in queue for Contest? They got about 14!"

Chorus Connection (Cont.)



This year's Coastal Harmony Regional was very exciting for **Southern Company Chorus**! We were not able to compete in 2022, so this was the first time since 2019 we have been on the competition stage. Among our fourteen members were three first-timers to Sweet Adelines International competition – including two who are sisters (Lauren and Kathryn Wallace) and the daughters of assistant director Julie Wallace. From Lauren: "I enjoyed the opportunity to perform on stage as well as getting to listen to other choruses for the first time. It was a special experience to share with my mom who was co-directing the chorus for the first time at competition." From Kathryn: "I had a lot of fun singing with my mom and sister. It really felt like a

special opportunity to spend some time together and I also enjoyed hearing the other great choruses attending. Most of the members went to dinner after the competition and had a great time sharing experiences and eating Italian food.

We were glad to have two quartets in the competition – No Boyz Aloud and AttiTunes. We were very proud of their performances. We were also extremely proud of Julie Wallace who co-directed on the competition stage for the first time. Well done, Julie!



Contest 2023 has got to be one of the most memorable in recent years for **Sound of Sunshine**. Our biggest highlight was achieving a score of 600 which has qualified us for Harmony Classic in 2024 AND Gayle earning her Master Director achievement. We so wish we could have captured her expression when it was announced. We are all so proud!

We had some rookies with us this year and that is always fun to see things from their perspective and watch them catch the "bug" of this wonderful hobby of ours.

Our brightest star award would have to go to our Sunshine Boys! Bobby Burton and Mark Goodell were our "uber" drivers transporting members back and forth to the Hilton from our hotel off site. They were also instrumental in the success of our Saturday night party shuttling guest quartets to come and sing for us. You couldn't miss them with the sunflower stickers all over their vehicles!



We are going to miss the beach but are so excited for our venue at Regionals next year!

Bridges of Harmony was absolutely over the moon to return to sunny Daytona Beach in May. Our chorus took the stage with hearts aglow and smiles on their faces. We are still thoroughly excited over our score and results. We couldn't have done it without our amazing director, coaches, friends and family, and most of all - our teamwork. Each singer put their own absolute best into their performance, and we couldn't be happier! "I love this chorus so much, and I'm so proud to be their director. Contest weekend was a magical experience. I was so grateful to be able to lead this chorus and create wonderful memories." commented director, Kim Higdon.

Chorus Connection (Cont.)

The coaching that the chorus received this year truly helped our singers feel prepared and connected with our beautiful competition set. After working diligently with our fabulous coaching team (Gina Baker, Diane Porsch, Betty Clipman, Rene Porzel, Jim Arns, and Jay Giallombardo), BOH found their true song, and most definitely showed it on the competition stage. This year, we had a great number of new members, and first time competitors taking the stage. New member, Caryn Massenzio, described her experience as a "first-timer." "It was scary to do something new, but I had all of my friends singing around me. I honestly forgot that I was even nervous." She said.

As for the future, BOH is truly delighted and honored to be representing Coastal Harmony Region 9 at the 76th Annual International Convention in Kansas City, MO. We are hard at work learning new music, coaching with our incredible team, and strengthening our sisterhood as we walk the path to International next October!

The last several months have been quite busy for **Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus**! As we started the New Year, our focus turned to increasing our membership and preparing for the Regional Competition. Over the summer and fall months, we had already added four new members but felt we could benefit by adding even more.

On the first Saturday of February, we hosted Open Auditions using guidelines posted in the Facebook ConverSAtion group. We had seven women audition and all were amazing. We invited them to attend our rehearsal the following Thursday. We sent each home with the sheet music to our two Regional Competition songs. All seven came fully prepared and were already almost completely off the sheet music by that first rehearsal.

Life happens, though, so over the next few weeks, four of the seven had to drop out for various reasons. The three remaining, along with the four other new members, have been incredible additions to our vocal sound, resulting in us having seven new voices when we attended this year's annual Regional Competition.



And that paid off with being awarded "Most Improved Chorus" with an increase of 99 points to our overall score!! We were absolutely thrilled!! We now have some lovely new bling to wear. We are thankful to the coaches, Kim Scott Higdon and Britt-Helene Bonnedahl, who worked with us this year. Their efforts were obviously not in vain!

This year's Competition was, however, a bit bittersweet. Our wonderful director, Diane Sherley, decided that after 43 years she would step down as co-director. While Diane will no longer direct, we are thrilled she will continue to sing with us. This change in our leadership made our accomplishment as Most Improved Chorus all the more meaningful so her tenure as Co-Director ended on a high note.



Chanda Morris (Diane's daughter) will continue as Co-Director and will be joined by Co-Director Jenny Winsor. Chanda has been singing with the chorus since she was 14. She became Assistant Director in 2002 and Co-Director in 2004. In 2008 she completed the Sweet Adelines Director Certification Program to become a certified director.

Jenny began singing with Sweet Adelines in 1984. She was a member of the Neapolitan Chorus in Naples, Florida before moving on to City of Palms Chorus (now known as Spirit of the Gulf Chorus) in Fort Myers, Florida. She joined our chorus in 1987 and has served as our Associate Director since completing the Sweet Adelines Director Certification program in March 2019. Jenny, Diane, and Chanda (along with Beckie Preston) comprise On The Edge quartet. This has been a challenging year for the quartet, health-wise because in January, Diane broke her

Chorus Connection (Cont.)

foot. Then just as she was starting to get around better, Jenny broke her ankle! With Jenny unable to drive her truck, which we use for transporting our trailer with our chorus risers, we received permission from the church where we rehearse to temporarily park the trailer in their parking lot. Normally, we keep it in a locked facility because no one else in the chorus had a vehicle that could tow the trailer and risers. Sadly, not even ten days later, it was stolen! When we looked into replacing the risers, we discovered the price has nearly doubled in the years since we bought them. We announced the theft and began accepting donations and created a GoFundMe page to raise funds to replace them: <https://gofund.me/a1dfd45d>

We are looking forward to whatever the future holds for us as a chorus with our nearly new Co-Directors and all our new and continuing Members.

Toast of Tampa Spirits Not Dimmed by Hotel Power Blackout at “Diamonds in the Sun” Region 9 Contest

The old saying “the Show must go on” took on a new meaning for Toast of Tampa when the hotel in which most of us were staying lost power Thursday afternoon just as many were arriving in Daytona Beach. While auxiliary generators powered the elevators and lights in hallways, none of us had lights in our rooms until Friday afternoon!

Quartets

The excitement kicked off Thursday night with **Duly Noted Quartet** (including Toast of Tampa members Raegan Stauffer and Kaley Anna Raabe) being inducted into the Top Hat Club as the 2022 Regional Quartet Champions! Friday’s preparation for some of our competing quartets was rather challenging. How do you get ready with no hot water for showers or lighting to put on eyelashes or fix your hair? By having amazing friendships that show! **Sirens Quartet** (including Toast of Tampa associate member Gina Baker) invited **For the Love Quartet** (including Toast of Tampa members Abbie Owens, Jamee Billings, and associate member Jenifer Billings) to get ready in their room which was in a different hotel - with lights! Brava to friends supporting each other! **Dynasty Quartet** (including Toast of Tampa member Sarah Lindvall) and **No Curfew Quartet** (including Toast of Tampa members Julie Vaughn and Susan Hallenbeck) must have had lights in their rooms as they looked and sounded beautiful onstage! **AttiTunes Quartet** (including Toast of Tampa members Gloria Churchill and Linda Verzosa) would have all worn their skinny jeans onstage if they could have found them in the dark! Congratulations to all quartets for a Friday contest filled with great singing and entertainment!

Chorus Competition





The “Diamonds in the Sun” were sparkling (and our hotel power was restored) on Saturday in time for the chorus competition. Toast of Tampa performed two songs for evaluation only followed by our Outgoing Champion package.

After we sang and while still onstage, our Director, Tony DeRosa, took a fun picture of us. Thank goodness we can still see Tony’s hand in the photo!

Your chorus Directors then came on stage where they were individually named and received your thanks and applause! Tony invited everyone on stage - including your Directors to join us in singing “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough.” What a highlight and such fun! Congratulations to all who crossed the Regional stage on Saturday. We listened. We smiled. We cheered. We were so proud of every one of you.

Congratulations!

We are excited that “our” quartets were appropriately recognized for their outstanding performances at regional: Dynasty #1; Sirens #2; For the Love #3; AttiTunes winners of the Open Division and No Curfew winners of the Platinum Division (and they’re excited to be competing in the SAI Diamond Division Quartet contest this summer.) Special “hats off” to these FOUR quartets for earning spots to compete at International: Duly Noted, Dynasty, For the Love and Sirens. So glad we get to hear you sing again this fall and we’ll be cheering you on!

Toast of Tampa chorus thanks Region 9 for its support and is honored to represent all of you in Louisville. Excitement is building for our journey and we are thrilled that our International performance will include over 30 chorus members who have never performed at a Sweet Adelines International competition before!

Quartet Capers



After only four months together and a few long-weekend rehearsals, **No Curfew**, was so excited to win not only 6th place in Region 9’s incredible quartet contest, but also the Silver Award as the highest scoring quartet with all members over 55. We had no trouble being among the “old gals.” In fact, we were intrigued when we heard about the Diamond Division contest and quickly added up our ages to see if we qualified to enter. With a requirement of 240 combined ages, we made it by one year and sent the application in as soon as registration opened. It has been invigorating preparing for two contests this year. We are proud to represent Region 9 and our chorus, Toast of Tampa, as contestant #3. And we truly

appreciate all your support as we head to Texas to compete and soak up all we can from Queens College (we ARE old, so the soaking takes a bit longer nowadays!), and just have a blast doing what we love.

Julie, Shamane, Su, and Donna

Sound of the Keys had a great time at Competition! We loved getting to compete together for the first time and are looking forward to next year. Our tenor has gone to Maine for the summer but that's not slowing us down! We are working on growing our repertoire and are having monthly rehearsals with Brittany on Zoom. We will be singing on South Florida Jubilee's holiday show on December 10th at the Pompano Cultural Center and hope to book some other holiday gigs as well.



The New Normal Quartet was honored to share the stage with so many talented members! The experience was empowering and uplifting. We felt welcome and supported as newcomers to quartet competition. This experience helped us develop our instruments, find confidence in our sound, and grow closer as friends. We will forever be grateful to the Sweet Adeline community.

Quartet Capers (Cont.)

Although we've had several names over our lifetime of being a quartet, **On The Edge** is our favorite. Jenny, Chanda and Beckie began singing together in the spring of 1992.

Who could imagine that we'd still be loving this bond 31 years later? Diane joined us in 2004, so we will celebrate 20 years as a foursome in January 2024. It's been quite the journey, but we've become sisters (or mom and daughters) as we've shared our love of music.

We enjoy learning, improving and entertaining. We love singing a variety of songs and have added more contemporary songs to show younger audiences that barbershop isn't old-fashioned anymore.



A Sincere "Thank You" and "Farewell"....

After 7+ years, **Here N Now** has decided to "hang it up" and concentrate on our great chorus, Spirit of the Gulf! We've had a blast together, and had so much fun performing in and around the Fort Myers area. The Winter Workshops that we've sung on/performed at have been so much fun and we've learned SO MUCH over the years. A simple Thank You just doesn't seem like it's enough. A special "thank you" to our directors, DeeDee and Karen, for their years of support and coaching. The four of us are still the very BEST of friends and intend to tear up that stage in Kansas City!!! Thanks for the memories Region 9.....love y'all!

Ellen, Deb, Denise, Barb

Our Loveliness of **Ladybugs** hit the air flying after contest! We have new music and a full rehearsal and coaching schedule. We'll have plenty of homework to take with us on our summer vacations.

We just booked our Ladybug fall retreat. This is a new tradition for us. We get away, relax, regroup, reconnect, and watch our friends compete at the International Competition! Have a great summer Region 9.

Your Ladybugs, Elaine, Julianna, Lisa, and Sarah



Ta-Da! is over the moon about being recognized by the Region with the Marilyn Rose Award for the Most Improved quartet! We realized that everyone's path to success looks a little different. What ultimately connects is a drive to dream big, think outside the box and pave a new path forward.

Moving forward, we welcomed our new lead, Lisa Smith. Lisa brings her passion and a positive energy that we are excited to share with you. Our first bonding experience was at the beginning of June, when we were able to attend the TRU Harmony retreat in Arkansas. Attached is a photo that captures our spirit.



Everyone is curious about how **Esselque Quartet** derived our name. Our quartet of tenor Linda, lead Cheryl, bass Cindy and baritone Barb, was initially composed of the section leaders (SLQ – Section Leaders Quartet) for Suncoast Harmony. We decided to be creative by spelling it phonetically. At this time, Esselque is no longer comprised of section leaders... since Cheryl gave up her position to concentrate on being the chorus director; but we love the name and all the interest it generates!



Quartet Capers (Cont.)



Hello Region Nine!!!! **Sirens** is so excited and honored to have been officially invited to compete as a Wildcard at the Sweet Adelines International competition in Louisville! We can't wait to represent this amazing region alongside Dynasty, Duly Noted, All Fired Up and For the Love! It's going to be an amazing week! Between all of our personal and family vacations we are spending our summers having lots of rehearsal weekends, Zoom meetings, and coachings. We will be attending Queen's College in July and are really looking forward to cheering on our friends in the YWIH and Diamond division contests! We have exciting things in the works and we are looking forward to sharing this adventure with all of you. We love Region 9!

Love ,
Gina, Angie, Deanna and Joanie
Sirens

Introducing Our Regional Communications Coordinator



Our Regional Communications Coordinator, Maria Maxwell's maiden name is Johansson. She was born and raised in Sweden, where her introduction to Sweet Adelines began when she had a new roommate who was walking around with a Walkman singing "awful songs". Maria could not hear the music, only what her roommate was singing. So she was very surprised when her roommate told her that she was going to a singing competition in Miami. When Maria's roommate came back from Miami with a Top 3 medal and said that her cousin just became a queen, Maria could not begin to imagine how that happened, since she thought her roommate couldn't even sing! As the facts revealed themselves, Maria's roommate sang baritone with Rönninge Show Chorus and was the niece of Britt-Helene Bonnedahl and the cousin of Anna, the baritone of Growing Girls!

In 1991, Maria travelled to the US to work as an au-pair in Coral Springs, where she met her now ex-husband at a club in Fort Lauderdale. In 1992 they moved back to Sweden and in 1995, their son Chris was born. During this time, Maria was singing with her local chorus, Key Town Harmony. In 1996, Maria and her family moved back to the United States and she wanted to continue singing with a Sweet Adeline chorus. Maria found and joined, Stars of Harmony which was directed by Jeff Finney. Obsession, a chapter quartet, had just won regional contest with Angie Love as the lead. This is where she formed her first and long-lasting friendships and she reports that if it wasn't for Sweet Adelines, she would not have stayed in the United States. Due to Naima Meyer, two time queen, Maria found her way across the state and joined Spirit of the Gulf. She is proud of the fact that she is Spirit's very first Alley Cat!

Maria has sung in many quartets over the years: Singsation, Noteables, Bling!, One Step at a Time, Mojito, Singsation #2, Fanfare, and now the latest, Spark! When she is not singing, Maria works for an elevator company and sends engineers all over the world to fix and service elevators on ships. She is a real life Blindsight Mom and a member of Sprit's music team. Maria holds an education degree from the University of Stockholm and became an American citizen in November of 2019. She is now a dual citizen of both Sweden and the United States and fluent in both languages! Maria is an east coaster and lives with Mo the cat, who acts like a dog, in Fort Lauderdale. She has a boyfriend who she met because of a text message he sent to the wrong number, that happened to be hers. They have been together for five years and he still says that it was the best wrong number he ever had.

DEDICATED DIRECTORS

Linda Verzosa – Southern Company Chorus



Linda Verzosa is the director of the Southern Company Chorus (SCC) located in Riverview, Florida. She has been a member of Sweet Adelines International since 1989 when she started singing with the Toast of Tampa Show Chorus. She was privileged to be in the chorus in 1993 when they placed 1st in Indianapolis. She served as assistant director under the direction of Randy Loos. Now, as a bass section leader, she enjoys the closeness and camaraderie of chorus life and really loves the constant learning provided by Tony DeRosa. The learning opportunities provided by Tony have enhanced her ability as a director for Southern Company Chorus, which she began directing in 2011. She was ecstatic when Southern Company won the Marilyn Rose Most Improved Chorus award in 2019.

Linda sings tenor in AttiTunes quartet where she enjoys making audiences laugh and loves singing in the Open Division competition! She has also sung in Tickled Pink quartet who placed 4th in a past regional competition.

When she began singing barbershop in 1989, she and her husband, Benito, had three young boys, the youngest being six months old. Benito had no idea how this “hobby” would affect his life! He has certainly persevered through the years and has come to expect the spur-of-the-moment sectionals and lessons, even when they occur in their home. Their sons, now married, have blessed “Mimi and Poppy” with their pride and joys, five grandsons, and a long awaited (and deserved) granddaughter.

Linda says, “It is a humbling and thrilling honor to serve as the director for Southern Company Chorus!”

Ask A Judge

Ask a Judge--anything! This column is your opportunity to ask one of Region 9’s judges whatever you want to know about the Sweet Adelines International Judging Program. Did you ever wonder how judges are selected, trained, and reviewed; how they are assigned to specific contests; how they prepare to judge; what a Regional contest weekend (or International contest week) is like for a judge; how they arrive at their scores and comments--or any other burning question you’ve always wanted to ask? Nothing about the program is a secret, and they are happy to clear up any mysteries or misconceptions that may be lurking out there. Bring on your questions! Jan Meyer, Certified Music Judge, will kick things off with a question that is asked frequently and also her answer to a question from one of our Region 9 members.

Q: Is it true that judges study videos of the quartets and choruses they will be judging in that region to set a level for the contest? I have heard two different versionswhat is the story?

A: Judges watch level videos prior to each contest we judge, but we NEVER include videos of the quartets and choruses that will be competing in that weekend’s contest. Every two years or so, the Judge Specialist Moderator (the top position in the Sweet Adelines International judges’ group) assembles level videos for both quartets and choruses. The sample videos are selected from previous regional contests. Performances are chosen that represent all the different levels we are likely to see at a regional contest, from C- to A+. There are two or three performances at each level. On the weekend of the regional contest, the official panel meets about three hours before the contest to view the level video for that day’s contest session and to discuss why a performance was scored at that level, what the performer needs to do to get to the next level, appropriate comments for that level, etc. If it so happens that there is a quartet or chorus on the level video that will be competing that weekend, we skip that one and do not view or discuss it at all. Different quartet and chorus videos are prepared for international contests, since the performance levels at international are much higher. All of the performances on these videos are of competitors who are NOT competing in that year’s international contest.

Unsung Heroes of Region Nine



When **Lauri Hunt** joined Sweet Adelines back in 1987, she was already a busy person. She had a six-year-old daughter, a husband, home, a very stressful job at the Post Office, bowled in two bowling leagues for which she was secretary, and was active in her church choir, taught Sunday School and co-led her daughter's Daisy Brownie troop. Thinking back, she's not sure how she had time to go to that first Sweet Adelines rehearsal that would change her life forever, but she immediately decided that Sweet Adelines was going to be a major part of her life.

As she explains, "I've always been a 'rules' person, so volunteering to help with the **Bylaws and Standing Rules** was pretty much inevitable. It was my first committee position in chorus and I've been on my chorus' Bylaws Team for most of my 35 years in

the organization. Not too many members take an interest in the rules - they know they are there and just take it for granted that things will be fine. That is not always the case; so the rules are mainly there for those occasions when they become necessary. And I'm here to help when those situations arise."

When I became the Bylaws Chair for Region 9, I had a vision to create a database of all chorus Standing Rules for our Region. At the time, we did not keep such records at the Regional level, but the Team at the time agreed that we should. It took a lot of reminding, editing, educating, and cajoling to get it done, but we do now have that info on our website, in a protected area. From here, we only have to do a review every three years or so to be sure our choruses are doing business according to the way the Region's Standing Rules are written.

I'd like to thank all of those Bylaws chairpersons, and others who stood up in their place, to make the changes that were recently required by International to our Bylaws and Standing Rules. I always say, 'this is not the funnest job.' Such poor grammar, but so true.

My time in SAI has been the joy of my life. In my younger days, I competed for several years and earned a Fifth Place and a Second Place Medal with my quartet, Goodness Gracious. I'm still singing with my current quartet of six years, Bella. We do not compete, but rather enjoy performing locally with the chorus and on our own. In the chorus, I serve as Music Chair, bari section leader, music librarian, historian, and help wherever else I'm needed.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about the rules. My door and my heart are always open.

Ignite the Sound Region 9 - New Members

Bridges of Harmony Chorus

Mary Martinez

Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus

Ra'Chelle Banks

Allison Carr

Ariana Gaskin

Magic of Manatee

Kathleen Pederson

O-Town Sound

Dawn Antonis

Platinum Show Chorus

Gail Essner

Sound of Sunshine Chorus

Lola Brizio

Evelyn Dean

Heather Phillips

South Florida Jubilee

Brenda Horowitz

Vittoria Verrone

Southern Company Chorus

Kaitlyn Forster

Kathryn Wallace

Spirit of the Gulf

Jenni Lewis

Debra Newman

Paige Sgrirnoli

Dawn Wilkinson

Toast of Tampa Chorus

Tonya Frizzell Groninger

Michele Loveless

Women of Note

Shirley Eckert

Linda Marcovitz

Emma Rubin



Tag, You're It!

Click [HERE](#) to watch For the Love Quartet's rendition of this tag!

She Stole My Heart Away

(An Old Fashioned Girl In A Gingham Gown)

The image shows a musical score for the song 'She Stole My Heart Away'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'In a ging - ham — gown she stole my heart a - way a - way'. The treble staff has a melodic line with a slur over the last two notes, and the bass staff has a similar melodic line. There are numbered fingerings (1-6) above the notes in the treble staff. The lyrics are: 'In a ging - ham — gown she stole my heart a - way a - way'. The treble staff has a slur over the last two notes, and the bass staff has a similar melodic line. There are numbered fingerings (1-6) above the notes in the treble staff.

Earl Moon
Popular version

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