



NINE ON LINE

IMPORTANT DATES

2023

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

Greetings, Region 9, and welcome FALL!

This time of year has us reflecting on the summer and setting our sights on shows, holiday performances, and a new contest season. With the cooler air comes fresh perspectives, reflection, and renewed excitement for the coming season.

Recently, the RMT met with your chorus leaders to discuss plans for the upcoming Education and Contest seasons. In the coming weeks, you can expect a personal visit from an RMT member who will be bringing our "Roadshow" directly to you so that we can share these plans. We also want to spend some time getting to know you better.

As your RMT, we read and discuss everything that you send to us and every line of every survey you complete. This communication is vital! We also deeply appreciate the many words of support we have received as we have struggled through some tough decisions this year. I'm so very proud of our Region...let's keep this communication flowing!

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Gayle Burton

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

Introducing the Competition Steering Committee

Hello Region 9,

It is our pleasure to announce this year's Competition Steering Committee. These wonderful ladies have all stepped up and are excited to give you the best contest ever in sunny ORLANDO this year! The Competition Steering Committee has already hit the ground running and we recently had our first official planning meeting. Please be on the lookout for emails from us over the course of the year. We look forward to an exciting contest in May 2024!



Susan Roberts-Mevio
Co-Chair of Regional
Convention



Jan Sobolewski
Co-Chair of Regional
Convention



Candice Dickens
Competition Coordinator



Jean Flinn
Official Panel Liason

What's the BUZZZZZ about the Harmony Buzz Award?

by Julie Todaro (Spirit of the Gulf member)



The Queens of *The BUZZ* Quartet, Karen Briedert, Debbie Cleveland, Nancy Cloeter, and Jeannie Froelich, joined together in 2003 and quickly became a crowd favorite. They won Regional and then International contests their first time competing together in 2005. Because they were so fortunate to win right away they continued to stay very active, together for 17 years, traveling the world, coaching, recording five CDs, and performing throughout the Americas and Europe. But if you ask the ladies what the best thing about being a part of *The BUZZ* was, they'll tell you it was the friendships they created.

When the ladies announced their retirement, the Region wanted to honor them and their long history. So, in 2018, the leaders of Region 9 surprised Karen, Debbie, Nancy, and Jeannie with "The Buzz Award". They were given the privilege to choose a quartet each year that showcases the same values they held, including 1. *musical achievement*, 2. *giving back to the Region and their chapter*, 3. *longevity*, and 4. *most of all, the value and respect of loving each other*.

To date, there have been three well-deserved winners chosen in 2019, 2022, and 2023; (no winners were chosen during the years Covid prevented in-person conventions). I reached out to each quartet to get their background and feedback on winning the award. And after connecting with them, I can see why all of them were chosen as recipients of the Buzz Award. During my wonderful interviews, I asked each one what was the best part about being in their quartet and what getting the award meant to them. I loved their answers! Each quartet truly embodies the four values of *The BUZZ*, as listed above. See for yourself...

Harmony Buzz Award (cont.)

2019 - On the Edge: Chanda Morris, Beckie Preston, Diane Sherley, and Jennifer Winsor are all members of Gainesville Chorus and include a mother/daughter combination who also co-directed the chorus until 2023. Three of these lovely ladies have been singing together since 1992. Then, in 2004, with the addition of Diane, they completed this quartet and became *ON THE EDGE*. These ladies share similar work ethics and they do so much for their community through their chorus and quartet. In addition, they love being a part of Region 9 and often step in as demo quartets and mic testers for the Region's education weekends. They have also coached others and basically are available to do whatever they are asked to do. They have found the secret of successful longevity and are celebrating their 20th anniversary this year (2024)!



Their answers to my two main questions:

What is the best part of being in this quartet?: "We love doing this together. We love each other a lot, and we've been through so much together - marriages, divorces, broken bones, etc. But through it all, we do a lot of laughing!" (Note: They were laughing and having a great time telling me this!)

What does this award mean to you?: "To be singled out and recognized by *The BUZZ* and the Region overall was inspiring. We received beautiful bee necklaces as the award, and we love to wear them when we sing together."



2022- Bling: This sparkly quartet began in 2004. But it wasn't until 2009, after a few membership changes, that this match-up of the final four including Deanna Kastler, Kim Elger-Griffin, Dayve Gabbard, & Angie Love-Callahan, truly shined. They won their first regional championship in 2010 and then became queens in 2015. In their words, "*BLING!* was a regular regional quartet." All of them had been in quartets before and understood the importance of being truly involved in the Region. They promoted Region 9 for many years and were willing to help out however they could. They had a common belief in giving back. And while *BLING!* is now retired, their friendships with each other will never stop. They valued their time together and support each other in their new quartets. Their answers to my two main questions:

What is the best part of being in this quartet?: "It was hard to find a group of local people and be a chapter quartet with a great musical connection. We found it and **then** got the amazing bonus of friendship that was like lightning in a bottle."

What does this award mean to you?: "As a quartet, we always looked up to *The BUZZ*. They were continuously so approachable and were true mentors for us and others. They were friends too. We were truly honored that we were recognized for continuing on what they stood for in our Region."

2023 - Duly Noted: These young rising stars just celebrated their 5th year together, but Emily Hitt, Kaley Anna Raabe, Madison Slamka, and Raegan Stauffer feel like they've known each other their whole lives. They have a close connection with *The BUZZ*. Kaley Anna and Raegan are former high school students of Debbie Cleveland, Emily's mother (Dana Johnson) sang with Debbie in Showtime, and Madison has known Debbie and Karen for many years as family friends and through Spirit of the Gulf chorus. I loved what they told me about their journey so far, "It has never been about what is right in front of us but the journey together." We felt a bond from day one and immediately became sisters and a family. We hope to sing together for a long time because we genuinely enjoy each other's company and appreciate what each brings to the quartet."

Harmony Buzz Award (cont.)



We try to better each other as people and continue to grow as musicians. We try to treat others like we would wish to be treated, and love the motto 'Have courage and be kind.' And this spirit is what has brought them to be the 2019 Rising Star Champions, 2022 Region 9 Champions, and the current 7th place International Quartet. They love being a part of Region 9. They are grateful for the unconditional support from so many and vow to pay it forward by mentoring at youth camps and workshops to help the next generation of upcoming Rising Stars experience the positive and amazing world of barbershop.

Their answers to my two main questions:

What is the best part of being in this quartet?: "We all treat each other like sisters, and weekends together are more than just rehearsals... as we cherish the time we get to be together. Each one of us has so much love and respect for the other, and it is an amazing feeling walking out in front of an audience and knowing that no matter what happens, we have each other's backs through and through. We love getting to travel and share our music with others, and just enjoy the friendship that we share."

What does this award mean to you?: "Receiving this award was an amazing feeling that we will never forget, especially since it was presented to us by Debbie and Karen. It has meant the absolute world to us as we have looked to them as mentors and family for a long time. We have always had so much love and respect for *The BUZZ*, so to be picked by them to receive this award is a surreal experience for us all."

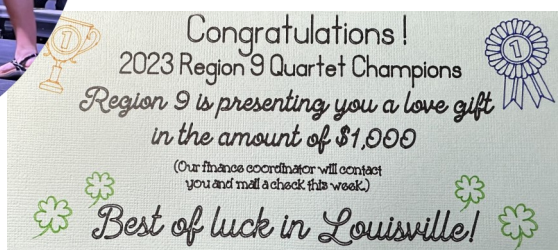
It is clear to see the impact that *The BUZZ* has had on these quartets and many others. They truly do live on through this award. Each one of the award recipients lives up to the values that *The BUZZ* modeled with their musical achievements, giving back to the Region, their time together, and the value, respect, and love they have for each other and the Region. The members of *The BUZZ* told me they thank God for their many blessings, but there is no doubt that Karen, Debbie, Nancy, and Jeannie have truly passed on their blessings to others in the world of barbershop and beyond. We are looking forward to who will be next year's winner! Will it be you? Even if it isn't, keep striving to be all you can be and know that the sisterhood of Sweet Adelines is strong, as we see in great trailblazers of our organization like the members of *The BUZZ*!

Love Gifts for Region 9 Competing Chorus and Quartets



Congratulations to our International Competitors in Louisville!

Duly Noted
Dynasty
For the Love
Sirens
Toast of Tampa



I've heard of the Rising Star contest, but what in the world is Queen's College and the Diamond Division?

Julie Vaughn, Baritone of No Curfew Quartet
Region 9's Platinum Division Champion

I had the same question when Shamane, our lead, said, "Let's go!!" Turns out that the Diamond Division is a contest very much like Rising Star but for, dare I say...those on the other end of the age spectrum. While one has a maximum age limit, the Diamond Division has a minimum age limit of 55. Not only that, but the quartet's cumulative age has to be at least 240 years. We quickly added up all our ages and found that we qualified by one year, so we started making plans to be among the first 15 to turn in our application and be eligible to compete. Queen's College is an educational opportunity sponsored and taught by the Coronet Club (a.k.a., ladies with crowns) and focused on quartetting. These two competitions are a yearly event; however, Queen's College is not. So we were extremely fortunate that the three coincided this year, creating a quartet weekend made in heaven.



Since we were already preparing to compete in Region 9's contest in May, we just had to embrace our "old" and add airline tickets and hotel reservations for Richardson, Texas, to our To-Do List. In July, with our scoresheets and Platinum Award Ribbons from Region 9 in hand, we arrived in Texas eager to make new friends, both old and young, with crowns and not, and stay true to our name and have a blast. And we did!! As we checked in, we met Quad City Sound (who won our contest!) and Madison Avenue (2022 Champions). In fact, Su, our bass, had sung with a member of Madison Avenue in another region, and they were excited to reconnect. Later that day, Donna, our tenor, was seen eagerly hugging the necks of two former quartet members that were dear to her. We were all immediately fast friends and met up often throughout the weekend. That's just Sweet Adeline's for ya!

On competition day, we headed for the performance hall for the briefing and made it a point to chat with the 13 other quartets. Although we were all there to compete, we had lots in common, the most laughed about being that we were all "old." That meant that we had learned that life is too short to take things too seriously, and we were all able to relax and just wish everyone their best performance onstage. International staff walked...and walked...and walked - we're old, for goodness sake!! - us through the pattern, and we each got 30 seconds on stage to do as we wished. Too soon it was time to walk on stage for real, and the judges said we "took the stage with joy!" It seemed like 30 seconds again, and we were walking off, our job done. As we entered the seating area, we were greeted with applause, roses from Region 9, and congratulations from not only our friends but from the earlier competitors. Although we knew we had left points on the floor, the audience laughed in all the right places, and we were very happy with our performance. Now we had to watch the 11 remaining quartets perform before we could learn what the judges thought. As we waited, we continued the theme of cultivating relationships. In fact, a sweet, very young Rising Star quartet, "Three Brunettes, One Not," sought us out, and we got to add them to our list of those we were cheering for in their competition the next day.

The call-off took forever to arrive. After hearing all but the first two quartets, we had no idea where we stood. When they called 5th Place and it wasn't us, our hearts sank. I mean, you always think the worst, right? When they called 4th Place and we heard "No Curfew," we were ecstatic and jumped out of our seats to take the stage one last time and accept our medals on new yellow ribbons. Platinum and yellow make a striking combination, and we're so proud to wear them both for the 2023 competition season.

Queen's College and the Diamond Division (cont.)

Queen's College was just the icing on the cake with so many opportunities to hone our craft. The classes were such that you definitely had to leave your insecurities and egos outside the door to fully enjoy and absorb the teaching on letting your joy fly across the stage to embrace your audience. Of course, there were the practical classes on developing a name, logo, quartet personality, etc. And an hour of coaching with Kim Newcomb, baritone of The Ladies, was sheer delight. Then on Saturday night there was an opportunity to sing for everyone attending the event. I don't know why I was surprised at the raucous applause and cheering for every single performance, from those who wore crowns to those who had placed "on the second page" in the contest. The camaraderie of those with a quartet mindset was palpable throughout the weekend. To get just a glimpse of the fun and joy, go to our Facebook page, [No Curfew Quartet!](#) The pictures will tell the story!



Region 9 Rising Stars at 2023 Queens College



We are Radiant, an up-and-coming female quartet based in Tampa, Florida. We represent Coastal Harmony Region 9 and The Toast of Tampa Show Chorus. This summer, we had the privilege of attending Queens College and competing in the Sweet Adelines Rising Star Competition in Richardson, Texas. We were honored to receive second place at our very first contest together and we are so grateful to have been given such a warm welcome by so many Sweet Adelines from around the country.

Each of our members have found barbershop in unique ways. Hannah Paschal (Lead) and Emma Paschal (Baritone) were introduced to the barbershop community by their teacher, and Queen of Harmony, Debbie Cleveland. They began singing in The Toast of Tampa Show Chorus where they met Abbie Owens (Tenor) soon after. Abbie is a third-generation Sweet Adeline who started singing barbershop when she was eleven years old. Over the years, they each have competed in several Rising Star Competitions with other groups such as Singing Double and Blaze Quartets. Hannah and Katie Vincent (Bass) connected at Florida State University, where Katie is currently a member of the school's female a cappella group, The AcaBelles. Katie was very excited to attend Rising Star, as it was her first introduction to barbershop!

Throughout the convention, we had the opportunity to meet many talented singers and teachers through the Queens College program. We began our weekend enjoying the Diamond Division Quartet Competition where women, 55 and up, shared their wonderful music with us. On the day of Rising Star, we met with Debbie Cleveland and Karen Breidert, who prepared us for the contest. After hours of hair, makeup, and warmups, we were eager to hit the stage! Being able to share our music with people who appreciate and understand the art form felt like a dream come true. We were so thankful to have such an enthusiastic and engaging audience. After a night full of celebratory pizza and late-night tag singing, we prepared to be a part of the Young Women's portion of the program. With the help of Debbie and Love Notes Quartet, we were given the opportunity to join together with many amazing young singers to perform on the Saturday night show.



We are so thankful for all the love and support we have received from Region 9 and so many others. We look forward to continuing our journey ahead as Sweet Adelines!

Chorus Connection

Janice Wagner, New Music Director for Magic of Manatee



The **Magic of Manatee** Sweet Adelines of Bradenton are proud to announce our new Music Director, Janice Wagner. Janice graduated from Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music and has been teaching music for over 25 years to K-12 students in Ohio, Indiana, and Florida. Janice succeeds Stephen Ditchfield, who led the chorus for the past four years.

Janice sang with the Pride of Toledo Chorus and the Spirit of Detroit Chorus, becoming the Associate Director of Spirit of Detroit. While Associate Director, they placed 13th at the International Competition. Janice also directed Towns of Harmony Chorus for five years in Fort Wayne, Indiana. While there, she won the Novice Director Award at their Sweet Adelines Regional Contest. In addition, while in Fort Wayne, Janice directed the Summit City Men's Barbershop Chorus for four years.

Janice currently teaches full-time at Carlos E. Haile Middle School in Bradenton, Florida. This year, she will reintroduce the chorus program to grades 6-8 with the hope of building passion and talent in the musical arts. Janice resides with her partner of 17 years in Lakewood Ranch.

The Road To Kansas City

Spirit of the Gulf's summer fundraiser, Freeze A Queen, was a huge success.

Congratulations to Karen Breidert, Spirit of the Gulf's Ice Queen 2023, who received the "icy splash" via Facebook Live on August 26th after our weekend rehearsal and a short performance for our friends and families! Thank you to everyone who voted in our Freeze A Queen Fundraiser and to our five fabulous queens, Cindy LeMaster, Deanna Kastler, Gina Baker, Karen Breidert, and Kim Elger-Griffin, who agreed to participate as candidates. Karen took the "icy splash" as the true champion that she is and Barb had way too much fun as the official splasher. Freeze A Queen was a fabulous kick off to get us on our way to Kansas City in 2024!



The **Hilton Head Shore Notes** chorus is pleased to announce that it will be changing its name to Shore Notes A Cappella Chorus in November. This exciting development came about because the chorus membership has expanded from Hilton Head to Bluffton, Sun City, Beaufort, Hardeeville, and beyond over the past several years.

To attract even more members, the chorus hosted a four-week Summer Camp this August and was thrilled that ten women signed up to discover the joy of a cappella singing! One of our potential members (a bari, of course) made beautiful cookies with our new logo for Friends & Family night at the close of camp. Five of our campers sang with us and received a graduation gift from the chorus. The attached photos were taken that evening at the Okatee Baptist Church in Ridgeland, where the chorus rehearses every Monday.

The Shore Notes A Cappella Chorus is looking forward to announcing the names of its new members in the next edition of Nine Online!



Chorus Connection (cont.)

Women of Note, A.K.A. Rock Stars!



It's been a terrific summer for the Women of Note! We've enjoyed welcoming guests and new members, hosting our annual Four on the Floor Contest and becoming rock stars for the day!

An ensemble from Women of Note had the unique opportunity to open for the 80s rock band Foreigner during their Farewell Tour stop in West Palm Beach on July 8th. Wearing our red sparkle logo shirts and blue jeans, the chorus performed a five-minute set, singing "Don't Stop" by Fleetwood Mac and the back end of "Best Day of My Life" by the American Authors.

The entire experience went by in a blur! The ensemble sang our hearts out and were rewarded with prize money that will go towards the youth education workshop that the chorus hosts each year. Everyone had a fabulous time and some of the members even got to meet the lead singer from Loverboy, Mike Reno, the "real" opening band of the night! It was an experience that will not soon be forgotten – the night we all became ROCK STARS!

The chorus is thrilled to welcome our newest rock stars to the roster. Women of Note had six brand new members on the competition stage this past May! We absolutely loved sharing the stage with Nene Pickrell, Samantha Mayernik, Emma Sharp, Emma Rubin, Jill Kenney, and Shirley Eckert. Wendy Moyer and Maria Maxwell, both past members, came back and competed with us as well. The summer months also brought us lead Linda Marcovitz, and just this past week, we welcomed lead Rebeka Burns, baritone Kathy Evans and bass Judith List. All rock stars for sure!

Suncoast Harmony is so pleased to have a new Lead, Melody Decker, join us this September! Welcome to Suncoast the Chorus! #ignitethesound



Sound of Sunshine is going full steam ahead preparing for 2024 Regional Contest and 2024 Harmony Classic. We also have a couple of shows in the works for next year.

We took some time off for a couple of weeks in July, and in August we had a fun outing to the Sound of Music Sing-A-Long at a historic theater in downtown Sanford. It was so much fun singing along to all the songs in that movie and some of the audience members were dressed up in costumes. Then we had our end-of-summer Ice Cream Social in September in conjunction with a baby show for Erica & Joe Cernugal who are expecting their first baby in October!

We are so excited that in recent months we have gained three new members - Lisa Deprez, Nicole Martin, and Jan Sobolewski.



Chorus Connection (cont.)

This summer, **Southern Company Chorus** has been working hard on vocal skills and learning some new Christmas music. We have four performances booked at Tampa International Airport in December and are hoping to book some other gigs for the holidays. We had an open house in August and had five visitors attend that event. We had a lot of fun demonstrating to these newbies what barbershop singing is all about! We have a new quartet just starting - Plus1. It is made up of a mom, two daughters, and one more person! We're looking forward to hearing them sing in the near future.

Toast of Tampa has had a busy summer! We had great representation in all the Barbershop contests, and we are so proud of all these folks.



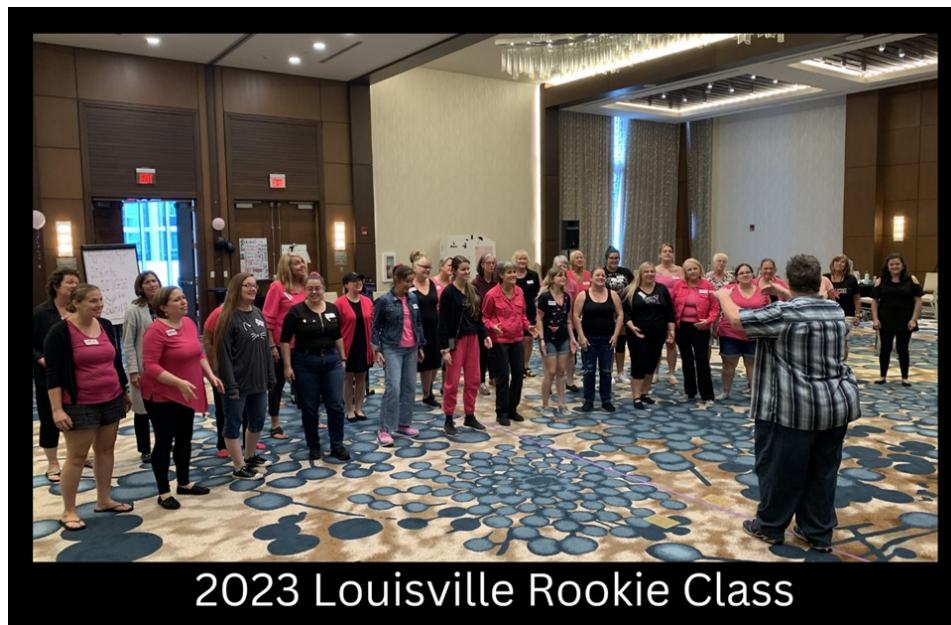
At the July Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) Convention in Louisville

- **Golden Hour** (featuring Abbie Owens and Hannah Paschal) came in 3rd in the BHS Next Gen Contest
- **3½ Men** (featuring our awesome director, Tony De Rosa, and his son, Joseph) got 4th Place Medals in the Quartet Contest
- Our brother chorus, **Heralds of Harmony**, directed by Tony De Rosa, came in 3rd in the world!



We represented in Richardson, Texas, with **No Curfew** (featuring Su Hallenbeck and Julie Vaughn) placing 4th in the Diamond Division; and **Radiant** (featuring Abbie Owens and Hannah Paschal) coming in 2nd in the Rising Star Contest.

Chorus Connection (cont.)



2023 Louisville Rookie Class

We are SO EXCITED for the International Convention in Louisville in October! We have a huge “Rookie Class” this year - almost half of our chorus are new members (or returning after many years) since our last International Competition in 2019. We call them Rookies, but they are experienced singers and we are so happy they are part of our family. This picture shows them performing for the rest of the chorus during our recent retreat.



These four quartets are competing next month in Louisville, and we are thrilled to call them ours:

- **Sirens** (*Gina Baker*).
- **Duly Noted** (*KaleyAnna Raabe and Raegan Stauffer*)
- **For the Love** (*Jamee Billings, Jenifer Billings and Abbie Owens*)
- **Dynasty** (*Sarah Lindvall*)

We are looking forward to representing Region 9 next month. It has been four long years since we have been on the International stage and we are loving our journey. We’ve been working hard, with extra Saturday rehearsals and an awesome Retreat a few weeks ago. We were blessed to have the dynamic trio of Tony De Rosa, Clay and Becki Hine as coaches. It was an amazing weekend full of singing, dancing, fun, and team building. As always, thanks to Region 9 for your wonderful support of Toast of Tampa. We hope to see many of you in Louisville. Watch for us on Thursday, November 2. We are Contestant #10 and we are planning to *Trip a Little Light Fantastic!*



Chorus Connection (cont.)



We have four potential members!

Open Audition Success

On Saturday, September 9, **Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus** held our second successful Open Auditions session. We created a flyer, posted it on our Facebook page and boosted it several times, as well as encouraged our members to share it often on their personal pages. The hook on our ad was inviting women to join us in singing on our upcoming holiday shows. We received 12 responses from women interested in singing with us, and another singer didn't respond but showed up unannounced. As it turned out, we had seven women come to audition, and all of them were invited to our next rehearsal.

For various reasons, three decided they weren't going to continue forward with us but three attended on rehearsal night. Another one couldn't make it that week but she was there the following week when we had two members of our Regional Management Team talk to us about all the exciting changes going on in the Region. That night we also had a graduate student from the University of Florida join us. She's doing a paper on barbershop singing and how it brings communities together. She decided to try singing with us, too!

The chorus has already started planning the celebration for our Fiftieth Anniversary coming up in 2024! In preparation for that, we toured a local historical site. While on the tour, we happened to find out that the Director of the facility is a singer. We invited her to visit our rehearsal some time. She wasn't available for our Open Auditions but has started coming to rehearsals, too.

This means we have four brand new potential members on the risers with us! Getting new members has brought new energy to our chorus, and we are thrilled!

Quartet Capers



After a June performance with the Hernando Harmonizers and our Suncoast Harmony Chorus, the members of **Esselque** have been traveling this summer: tenor Linda to Pennsylvania, bass Cindy to Illinois, bari Barb to Colorado, and lead Cheryl to the Florida Space Center. We accomplished selecting new music for contest next year and are looking forward to sharing it with the Region in May.

Quartet Capers (cont.)

Well, **Ta-Da Quartet** has been very busy since Region 9 Competition in May! We welcomed our new lead, Lisa Smith, and we've hit the ground running! We took a road trip to Arkansas for a Quartet Retreat to get some bonding time and learn more about each other. We also acquired some new chicken friends along the way!



New competition music has been picked out and we've been meeting with our coach, Kim Higdon, whenever we can. We're building our repertoire and having lots of fun! We hope to express the joy that we feel singing to our audience.

Lisa, Diane, Sylvia, & Vivian



The ladies of **AttiTunes** have had a fun summer relaxing, planning, looking at music, and gearing up toward Christmas and competition. We have been working on Christmas music for three gigs already booked in December! On September 8, we sang for a talent show at a retirement community in Sun City Center where a former member of Southern Company Chorus lives. We did our Diet and Exercise package and it was well received.

No Boyz Aloud Quartet is working on a new contest ballad, and we are looking forward to contest at the new location in Orlando.

We are also working on Christmas music in preparation for upcoming Christmas performances. We will be singing at Tampa International Airport in December, and at our chorus Holiday show. We were lucky enough to have coaching with Queen Kim Eger-Griffin in August. Her expertise is much appreciated! Kim was also our Top Hat Hostess at the Quartet Reception during Regional Contest and kindly posed for a photo with us!



Exciting times as our new quartet, **Bubbly**, continues to find our sound and get to know each other better. Even though we all sing in Toast of Tampa Chorus, we are still a long-distance quartet hailing from one Florida coast to the other. We have our weekly chorus rehearsal and learning from Director Tony DeRosa, which is superb! Beyond that, we are creative with scheduling our rehearsal time and love it when a quartet retreat weekend at Lead Carol's home in Boca Raton happens. Singing on the beach is fun!!

Quartet Capers (cont.)



Marmalade Skies has been busy! Not only have we been traveling individually, but we've managed to weave in lots of performances as well. We had the most wonderful time singing for Anne on her 90th birthday. There was the cutest little future Sweet Adeline that took center stage with us. And we can't forget about Hank, one of our quartet cats, and how we serenaded his caretaker (girlfriend really) with Thank You For Being a Friend. We then found ourselves in South Miami for a performance with our chorus, South Florida Jubilee, where we sang a 4-song set. It's been a whirlwind summer and we're ready for the holiday season!

Jazzed enjoys singing for several facilities in our area, as well as in the major shows held by Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus/Barbergators Chorus. We sing regularly at Alz Place, an adult day care facility. Recently, we have also sung at Windsor Health & Rehabilitation Center and at Ayers Health & Rehabilitation Center. It is not uncommon for the residents to sing along with us on our repertoire numbers; our shows for them usually include a couple of audience-participation numbers as well as some corny jokes. We have been the featured entertainment twice at the Dunnellon Women's Club, and we are looking forward to participating in a talent show there to benefit children after the holidays. A few years ago we took second place in their talent show—we were beaten out by a mime! The next few months will find us quite busy as the entertainment at several holiday parties and caroling events. Our members are (l-r): Elise LeCompte (Bari), Alicia Page (Lead), Suzanne Zam (Bass), Donna Martin (Tenor).



In the last year, **Ladybug** truly found out how loved we are. Last fall, our tenor, Elaine, got the call that no mother wants to get. Without question, we told her to get on a plane and go. We had no idea how long she'd be gone. Over the next few months, our friends, choruses, and coaches surrounded us. Our former tenor, Iris, stepped in and helped us keep our Christmas gig commitments. Shortly after that, O-Town Sound Director Ali Bias offered to rehearse with us in preparation for Regional Contest. She learned our music and stepped right in. When we realized

that Elaine wouldn't be back in time for us to register, we figured out costumes and just pushed forward. We now had a bigger mission and purpose. We were doing it for Elaine. As contest neared and gifts started to appear, so many of them contained five of everything. The love and support that we received was overwhelming. Regional Contest came, and Lisa, Julianna, Sarah, and a very pregnant Ali went on as contestant number one. We left it all on stage and were so pleased with the outcome. It's been a rough year. We couldn't have done it without the love, support, and help of our friends. Huge thanks to our choruses, Iris, and Ali (and little baby Fleur for being a good girl and waiting until after contest to show up).

After getting together in the Fall of 2017, life took curves for the four of us in **Syncopation Quartet**, and it was difficult to rehearse. Then COVID hit and we couldn't be together, followed by more life curves with health issues, etc. So although it's been six years, we jokingly say that we've only been singing together for half that time! And we've not had the chance to compete yet as a quartet! That is a main goal of ours right now. We enjoyed a wonderful session with Gina Kaiser recently, and we plan to have additional coaching. Our Christmas music is being dusted off and we're excited about the gigs we have in December. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Regional! -- Pam, Barb, Sandy, and Kris



Quartet Capers (cont.)



Hello. **Duly Noted** here!! This year has been FLYING by and we have been lucky to stay busy! We can't believe Contest is only a few short weeks away!! Throughout the year we have had the privilege to work with some young singers at various high school workshops and youth events. We participated in the Sunshine Harmony Explosion Camp this summer, which our Coastal Harmony Region so kindly helped fund! We had an absolute blast getting to work with all of the students over the weekend and watching them grow their love for Barbershop. We've been able to be a part of camps and shows in places like New Jersey, Missouri, Georgia, and across the state of Florida. It's always amazing getting to watch others develop their love for music and barbershop the same way we have over the years (and still do!!).

Right now, we are full-speed ahead for International! We have had several rehearsals to help prep some of the new music we will be bringing this year and have a few more to squeeze in before we get to Louisville! Emily's now 7-month-old baby, Maggie May, has been helping to keep us on track, along with our amazing and supportive families! We can't wait to share with everyone what we have been working on! Thank you, Region 9, for your unending love and support!! We are so excited to be representing our Region at International this year alongside Dynasty, Sirens, All Fired Up, and For The Love!! Wishing the best for everyone, and we will see you there!!!

Much love,
Raegan, Madison, KaleyAnna, and Emily

Bella! has a new bass!!! We are so pleased to introduce Vittoria Verrone, our fabulous new bass.

The past eight months has been quite a challenge for us. We are a performing quartet and do quite a few gigs in the community in addition to singing with South Florida Jubilee (SFJ) and often as an addition to their performances. When we first became "bass-less" back in January, we already had six performances on our calendars. We were able to depend on our friends. Our previous bass, Michele Mueller, who has switched to baritone, agreed to come back and help out. Also, Rita Wells, a phenomenal bass in SFJ, stepped up to fill in for several jobs. Laura, Sally and Laurie even worked up enough songs in three parts to do one of those performances when others were not available. It was actually challenging and lots of fun.



Enter Vittoria...When she was voice placed for the chorus, she mentioned wanting to try the bass part. But her lead voice was so awesome that Laura, the lead section leader who was doing the voice placement, placed her as a lead. Not long after, Laura raised the possibility that we might ask her to audition for Bella - and as they say, the rest is history.

We met for a rehearsal at the beginning of June and knew right away that this was going to work. We called James Kastler, our director, who briefly left a neighbor's party to let us run over to his house so he could listen. Once we got his blessing, we were off. Vittoria is learning music like a kid eating candy. We're looking forward to the holidays when we normally have quite a few performances. Bella performed at a chorus show recently, although we did have another stand-in. This time it was Kimberly Heilbrun singing in Laurie's place since she was recuperating from a chemo treatment.

We especially want to thank all of our wonderful friends and supporters for helping us keep afloat and we can't wait for what's coming. Who knows? We might even talk Laura into competing.

DEDICATED DIRECTORS

Tony DeRosa - Toast of Tampa



Hello Region 9!

I am thrilled to have been asked to be a part of the “Dedicated Director” spot with this issue of Nine on Line. My name is Tony DeRosa and while being a chorus director since 1994, my first and only SAI directorship has been with The Toast of Tampa Show Chorus since January of 2007. I was fortunate to be a part of the ToT coaching club starting in 1993 and consider myself very lucky to have been asked to be a part of the amazing legacy of excellence established by wonderful directors and members through the years. As artistic director, it has been a unique ride full of learning and growth.

While I am there to educate, coach, inspire, and foster music and performance improvement, building a sense of team is paramount. An adjusted focus with the chorus has been doing everything possible to create a welcoming, connected community on a weekly basis. Our ToT team starts with doing everything together and truly ‘sharing’ the experience with one another. Beyond that, taking time to be intentional with individuals and their lives has done wonders for how we start each and every meeting. There is always much to learn in our craft, but the members make the experience happen. I want to continue to be better as a director and leader because of all they give to each other and the music they love so much. I am very thankful for our Region and the collected talents we possess! We will be working hard to represent all of you well!

All the best,
Tony

Introducing Our Regional Marketing Coordinator

Melissa is a 3rd generation Barbershopper and has been a member of Sweet Adelines for 26 years, beginning in Great Lakes Harmony Region 17 with the Greater Cleveland Chorus. In 2001, Melissa joined Coastal Harmony Region 9 and the Sound of Sunshine Chorus. She serves as the Tenor Section Leader and Music Coordinator in Sound of Sunshine and recently joined Spirit of the Gulf Chorus in the spring of 2023. Melissa has loved having the opportunity to serve at the regional level as the Marketing Coordinator and a member of both the Regional Faculty and Education Steering Committee.



Throughout her childhood, Melissa always dreamed of working at The Walt Disney World Resort and in 2001, her wish came true when she was selected to participate in the Walt Disney World College Program. She has continued her career with Disney in various leadership capacities, including Retail Leadership, Talent and Organizational Planning and most recently in Operations Training where she is leading the Mobile Training Experience Team.

At home, Melissa is always on the go with her husband of 14 years, Charles, and two future Sweet Adelines, Eleanor (age 12) and Margaret (age 7). As most parents with young children, evenings and weekends are often spent running from activity to activity (soccer, dance, church, etc.) but when there is spare time the family loves going to local theme parks together and cheering on their favorite Midwest sports teams, specifically the Ohio State Buckeyes! So when you see her, wave hello and shout a friendly O-H! Go Bucks!



Bill Thornton



Bobby Burton



Chris Dvorack



Bill Smith



Jim Leslie



Chris Meranda



Darryl Cunningham

Unsung Heroes of Region Nine

In May, there was a lot going on behind the scenes at Regional Contest, and we would like to recognize the husbands and “significant others” who helped transport, load/unload, and set up the risers used on the contest stage.

- Bobby Burton (Gayle Burton - Sound of Sunshine)
- Christopher Dvorack (Jessica Dvorack - Toast of Tampa)
- Daryl Cunningham (Cindy Cunningham - Toast of Tampa)
- Bill Smith (Lisa Smith - Spirit of the Gulf)

- Jim Leslie (Susan Leslie - Spirit of the Gulf)
- Mark Goodell (Susan Goodell - Sound of Sunshine)
- Chris Meranda (Ginny Meranda - Toast of Tampa)
- Bill Thornton (Debbie Thornton - Spirit of the Gulf)

We’ll let a couple of them tell you how they got “volunteered” for the job:

Bill Smith: My wife, Lisa, asked if I would drive the risers to Daytona for competition since I had done so for another event. What started as a one-time thing has turned into being part of the riser team. LOL! Little did I know what that would entail. We faced a few challenges with the setup on a new stage, but with our whole team, we were able to adapt and overcome. I was in the Navy for 30 years, and Lisa always stood by me and was the first to volunteer to help with anything. So I feel it’s only fair that I do the same for her. I sincerely enjoy the Barbershop community and am glad that I could help out. I would like to thank everyone who helped get this job done.

Bobby Burton: A few years ago, I was asked to drive the Toast of Tampa risers to New Orleans. Because of my comfort level with the large Ryder trucks and, probably more importantly, my flexible schedule, I volunteered. When Gayle moved to Sound of Sunshine, I was asked to transport Sound of Sunshine’s risers for a couple of Winter Workshops. Once, there was an issue with renting a liftgate truck as they were all allocated to American Red Cross for hurricane relief. Since the risers are too wide to simply roll up the truck ramp, I built “riser sleds” to overcome that hurdle. So... I guess that made me a logical choice when Cynthia Cohen was putting together a riser crew for Daytona. I’m honored by this recognition and share it with my co-workers. It is one small way we all can show our support for Region 9 and our gals.

Chris Meranda: Region 9 Sweet Adelines...what a great organization filled with a community that provides support, education, and great music. While traditionally seen as an organization that helps the members grow, I also have experienced a nurturing environment that has helped me appreciate the art form. The influence of Sweet Adelines goes well beyond just the membership in so many positive ways. I am proud of my wife and her chorus. But, I am equally thrilled to be enriched by the many other chorus members and even the members of the other choruses in our Region. We get out of the experience what we put in. As a husband who likes to support my wife’s endeavors, that positive experience has been returned tenfold through the interaction with Region members.

Daryl Cunningham: I really enjoyed the Regional Contest and being able to meet and work with some of the other husbands who were helping out. It was a great way to learn more about this new musical journey my wife and I are on, since we have only been involved in Sweet Adelines since August of 2022. We have truly enjoyed every minute of it.

Ask A Judge

In this Halloween season of candy overload, it seems appropriate to answer this question, recently submitted to Ask a Judge:

Q: What truly wins, plain M&Ms or Peanut M&Ms?

A: Truthfully—Neither! It's a standing joke that the judges need to have a bowl of M&Ms in front of us at the judging table. The reality is that while we're judging a contest, most of us don't reach for the snacks at all. We're much too busy writing score sheets, then giving them a second look to make sure we didn't leave any unfinished sentences, checking for spelling and grammar errors or confusing statements, and finally coming up with an appropriate numerical score that reflects those comments—all within a very short time frame so that we don't overstay the time slot that has been allotted for each competitor! When the contest is done and we're watching outgoing champion performances and waiting for the results to be announced, that's when we're most likely to reach for a snack. Most of us want something crunchy and salty, and we're likely to request nuts, trail mix, or small flavored crackers rather than candy when the region's Official Panel Liaison asks for our preferences.

What other questions do you have? Submit them to Maria Maxwell at communications@coastalharmony.org. AND.... plan to come to the Winter Workshop Saturday afternoon session for the general membership - "Myths, Mysteries, and Misconceptions - All the secrets you always wanted to know about the Sweet Adelines judging world." We'll answer other questions you've submitted and field questions from the floor. Hope to see you there!

Jan Meyer, Certified Music Judge

Ignite the Sound Region 9 - New Members

Bridges of Harmony Chorus

Kirsten Atchison
Cynthia Keyes

Magic of Manatee

Janice Wagner

Sound of Sunshine

Lisa Deprez
Nicole Martin

Spirit of the Gulf

Debby Bassell
Karen Braden
Jamie Ryan
Sherry Sprague

Suncoast Harmony

Melody Decker

Toast of Tampa Chorus

Susan Courtice
Tina Driscoll
Jamie Lynn Gilliam
Jessica Pipkin
Amanda Pittman
Jade Vaca
Amy West

Venetian Harmony

Holly O'Keefe

Women of Note

Rebekah Burns
Kathy Evans
Judith List



Tag, You're It!

Click [HERE](#) to watch Siren's rendition of this tag!

This is Halloween

Words & Music by Danny Elfman

Arranged by Alexander Ronneburg

Musical score for 'This is Halloween' in B-flat major, common time. The score is arranged for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system includes measures 1 through 3. The second system includes measures 4 through 6. The lyrics are: 'Hal - lo - ween, Hal - lo - ween, This is Hal - lo - ween, Ah _____ Hal - lo - ween, Hal - lo - ween, Ah _____ Hal - lo - ween, Hal - lo - ween, Hal - lo - ween! Ah _____'. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand.

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