Bulletin 2



Region 12 Convention Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2, 2020



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I. From Mary Mamer, Region 12 Events Coordinator

Here we are three months before the Region 12 competition and convention. All of our chorus and quartet competitors are hard at work perfecting their package by attending regular rehearsals and coaching sessions. Best wishes to all who cross the contest stage.

A few members of your convention committee recently visited the Nugget to firm up plans for the event. We had several pleasant surprises. The hotel has now completed the majority of their remodeling.

- All the rooms in the Casino Tower are done and equipped with new refrigerators and Keurig coffee pots. (Bring your favorite coffee with you). The rooms we saw had no smell of smoke and were all nicely decorated and smelled clean.
- The lobby is remodeled and is clean and fresh.
- The Steakhouse Restaurant is closed but there is a fabulous new restaurant on the lower level called Anthony's Chophouse. It's a little more expensive but the food and the atmosphere are worth it. There are private rooms available for small groups if you want a special celebration. Just take the down escalator behind the elevators on the Casino Tower side. It descends directly into the bar and restaurant. Be sure to make a reservation though as they fill up fast especially on the weekends.
- Many of the management staff at the Nugget remain in place. We are working with them to get all of the working pieces in place at least three weeks before contest. You will still have time to make small adjustments in numbers but the basic information needs to be ready. Please respond to the different RCSC coordinators as soon as possible when they are asking for a form to be completed or information sent to them.

By now most of you know that chorus and quartet registration with International is now open. The registration documents are available on the Region 12 website. Click on the Events tab, then Events in the dropdown menu then Region 12 Convention. Everything that is available now is listed there. The documents are updated as we receive new information from International. As of February 8th, we have ten quartets and four choruses registered.

You may have heard that chorus photos will be taken onstage this year. The new photo form is also posted on the Region 12 website. Choruses will turn this in at the Thursday night briefing and quartets will turn theirs in directly to Read Photography when they are in the quartet photo room. This will make the chorus traffic pattern shorter but a little longer on stage.

Something new from International this year is a special award for choruses or quartets competing in the Open Division. If you plan to register in the Open Division category there is a box on the registration form that you can check if you want to participate in this video contest. That is all you need to do to participate. After all the regions have finished, the Judge Specialists will review the videos of those choosing to participate. They will decide on the five choruses and five quartets that they feel best represents their criteria. Those videos will then be posted through YouTube and all members will be able to vote on the best one. No special prizes or ribbons other than the bragging right to say your group was the best.

I want to give a special shout out to all the members of the Regional Convention Steering Committee team. Everyone works hard throughout the year to make the convention run as smoothly as possible. They are a hardworking dedicated group of women who volunteer their time to serve the Region in this capacity. If you have any desire to work on the convention committee please contact Margy Kiser at margy3805@gmail.com or me at margymamer1976@gmail.com.

II. From Margy Kiser, 2020 Chair of the Regional Convention Steering Committee (CRC)

Once again we are in the competition pattern! Registration is up and running, hotel rooms are being reserved, and choruses are making plans for breakfasts and dinners at the Nugget. All of this in addition to the work being done within choruses and quartets to bring the best that we can to the stage. The energy and excitement is starting to become palpable as we move toward our competition weekend.

The Regional Competition Steering Committee is also working toward a successful competition. There is a lot of information in this Bulletin about competition: Chorus and quartet registration with timelines, registration for individual members, proposed schedule for the weekend, information on Jumbotron slides and program ads, information about charm ordering, the latest about our judging panel. We would like to make sure every member of Region 12 receives a copy of the RCSC Bulletin. Please share the information with your chorus!

Heroes of

We are looking forward to experiencing why we are all Heroes of Harmony!

Celebrate Your Chorus

What has your chorus been up to for the last 12 months? Shows? Fundraising events? Have you had a fabulous coach you'd like to celebrate? Do you have quartet news or simply want to celebrate your quartets? Singing Valentines? Chorus retreat? Special Holiday events?

Whatever your Chorus did can be displayed on our "Celebrate Your Chorus" tables outside the Ballroom at the Nugget during Competition. Bring your flyers, displays, scrapbooks or tri-folds to showcase your activities of the past year! Please notify me by April if your chorus plans on bringing something to display so that we can be sure to have plenty of table space for everyone.

III. From Donna Prochazka, RCSC Competition Coordinator

Registration to Compete

You should have received an email from Mary Mamer, Region 12 Events Coordinator, that was sent to all registered Quartets, Chorus Directors, and Team Leaders/Presidents on January 17th, 2020. This e-mail contained the links to the regional competition web pages. There are several helpful documents including registration for Regional Competition information on the Sweet Adelines website. If you did not receive Mary's email, contact Mary at marymamer1976@gmail.com or me at donnal.garyl@gmail.com as soon as possible.

If you are a Director, Team Coordinator/President, or member of a quartet that is considering competing, please read the appropriate Competitor Page, as it will answer many of your questions. **Be sure to thoroughly read this year's information.**

Remember: Only chorus presidents/team coordinators, directors, or treasurers can register a chorus (or prospective chorus) for competition, and only the quartet contact can register a quartet. Here are the links:

Chorus Competitor Page Quartet Competitor Page

No entries will be accepted after the late entry deadline – no exceptions!!

Posting Videos & Copyright Requirements

"By being a competitor in any 2020 Regional Competition, you have been granted permission to post the Sweet Adelines International video recording of your performance during the 2020 Regional Competition. It is understood that your chorus or quartet has obtained all applicable licenses and/or

permissions from ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC for your chorus or quartet. Sweet Adelines International reserves the right to revoke this permission for any reason. For specifics regarding social media copyright/licensing rules and regulations, please consult these entities. We appreciate your diligence regarding copyright matters."

Briefing

There will be a combined briefing in the Nugget Ballroom again this year for both quartets and choruses on *Thursday, April 30th at 5:30 pm.* Please note the time for the briefing. The earlier start time allows time for registration and to meet and greet. The Chorus Director and Team Leader/President are required to be present, but only 1 member of the quartet needs to attend the briefing. If there is an issue regarding this required attendance, please contact me before April 24th.

Official Inspection/Sound Check by Judging Panel COME BE PART OF THE SOUND CHECK CHORUS!!

The Official Inspection by the Judging Panel will occur at **9 am on Friday morning, May 1st.** I am inviting all members of the Assistance Chorus, Pacific Empire, 2019 Champion Chorus, who are present to participate as the Sound Check chorus during that inspection. Also, all chorus directors, team leaders/presidents, and chorus and quartet members are encouraged to come be part of the sound check chorus. It will provide the judges enough voices to set the sound and light levels and will give you a chance to sample the fully dressed stage. At some point during the sound check and at the Panel Chair's discretion, Directors will be allowed to listen to the sound-check chorus so that they can get a feel for the stage.

Patty Pennycook will direct the large Sound Check Chorus in one or more of the following songs: How We Sang Today, Harmonize the Word, and The Winners Song.

After the judges have set the sound for the large Sound Check Chorus; all participants will be excused, except for some or all of the members of Pacific Empire Chorus. This smaller set of singers will become the small Sound Check Chorus and will allow the judges to make sure the stage will be satisfactory for everyone!

Competition Handbook and Guidelines for Regional Convention

Anyone who is either considering competing or who is just interested in the" hows and whys" of contest is encouraged to review the Competition Handbook.

Official Judging Panel

Jean Barford - Sound Jana Gutenson - Music

Patti Burklund - Expression and Panel Chair

Sue Beck - Showmanship Janice McKenna - Panel Secretary

Proposed Schedule

Quartet & Chorus Briefing - 5:30 pm Thursday, April 30

Registration & Meet & Greet

Quartet & Chorus Briefing - 6:00 pm Thursday, April 30

Pattern Walk-throughs	-	Immediately the Briefing	following	Thursday, April 30
Chorus Sound Check	-	9:00 am		Friday, May 1
Quartet Sound Check	-	Immediately Chorus Sound	following Check	Friday, May 1
Quartet Pattern Walk-ons	-	10:30 am		Friday, May 1
Quartet Competition	-	1:00 pm		Friday, May 1
Chorus Competition	-	12:30 pm		Saturday, May 2

Note: Times are subject to change depending on number of competitors

List of Dates and Deadlines

1/17/20	Competition Packet Available SAI Website (You should have received a
	notice and links from Region 12 EVC, Mary Mamer)
3/02/20	Quartet Entry Deadline
3/17/20	Quartet Late Entry Deadline (\$100 additional fee)
3/03/20	Chorus Entry Deadline
3/18/20	Chorus Late Entry deadline (\$100 additional fee)
3/09/20	Drawing for Order of Appearance
4/30/20 - 5/02/20	Regional Convention

After the initial draw for Order of Appearance, contestants may not change the division that they have selected.

Video of Performance

We are going digital this year! If you order a video of your performance you will receive a USB drive of your performance at contest. If you choose to not order a video of your performance you will receive a link to an audio of your performance. (See more details below from our Webcast Chair)

Audience Choice Award

Once again, the audience will get to vote for their favorite Open Division performer. Open Division performers will be interspersed among the International Division performers in both the quartet and chorus contest.

Open Division Contestants

Contestants who wish to perform in the Open Division must check the appropriate box on the registration form that is sent to International.

IMPORTANT: It is important that Open Division contestants fill out their Cue Sheet carefully. You **MUST** check the boxes at the bottom of the page that ask if your performance begins and/or ends with spoken word. This is a timing issue for the Panel Secretaries, and deviation from what is included on their form will result in disqualification. Open Division competitors who are disqualified will receive their score sheets with the level scores removed due to disqualification.

SOMETHING NEW: Add even more excitement to your regional competition by entering the new Open Division Video Contest!

Here's How It Works:

When your quartet or chorus registers for regional competition, you will have the opportunity to indicate if you want to be included in the video contest. At the Judge Specialists meeting in June, five quartets and five choruses who indicated interest will be chosen for the contest. Videos will be uploaded to YouTube, and Sweet Adelines and fans can vote with "likes". At the end of two weeks, a winner will be announced? What do you win? Bragging rights, of course, and your group featured on Sweet Adelines social media in all your video contest-winning glory!

Contest Resources: Open Division Video Content Rules and Description

Stage Notes

- ONLY the standard riser configuration will be used.
- An acoustical shell will be placed behind the risers and, with the Panel Chair's approval, stage lighting will be placed so that light reflects off of the shell, providing ample stage lighting so that no singers are in a shadow.
- For choruses and quartets performing in the Open Division, the following microphones will be made available:
 - Quartet microphone center stage
 - o On both sides of the stage, a single handheld or standing microphone may be made available.

Please use the Cue Sheet to indicate the microphones that will be used (OPEN DIVISION ONLY).

- Black draping and MatchBooks will again act as the backdrop for quartets in the Quartet Contest.
- Stage monitors will be active for the Quartet Contest, pending approval of the Panel Chair.
- Quartets will be able to enter center stage again this year.

Traffic Pattern!

The Traffic Pattern will remain the same this year except for the elimination of the photo room for the chorus competition. If there is a delay, contestants will be directed to one of the "waiting rooms" until they are directed to move to the next station. You can find the quartet and chorus Traffic Pattern Diagrams on the Region 12 website by using the links below:

2020 Quartet Traffic Pattern Diagram 2020 Chorus Traffic Pattern Diagram

A REMINDER: If you plan to use a scooter or wheelchair in the pattern, you must provide your own device. We do not have these items available in the pattern.

Mobility Devices

In order to improve wait times at the elevators at the end of both the quartet and chorus contest; the hotel service elevator will again this year be available to anyone using a scooter, wheelchair or walker. Please note:

- A **single** assistant may accompany the person using the mobility device.
- Anyone using the service elevator **MUST** be accompanied by a hotel security guard
- This privilege is only available after the end of the Quartet and Chorus contests. The person using the mobility device must use the public elevator at all other times during the convention weekend.

Although elevator traffic will still be crowded and slow at times, the Regional Convention Steering Committee believes that this will significantly reduce the traffic jam at the public elevators after the end of each contest.

- > PLEASE be patient
- > PLEASE be considerate of the people around you
- > PLEASE be courteous

REMINDERS FROM INTERNATIONAL

All music must clear the copyright process. Failure to use cleared arrangements may result in disqualification.

QUARTET REMINDER

Quartet members may compete in up to two different quartets during the same regional contest, as long as they are in different competition divisions (e.g., one quartet member in both an International Division and the Open Division quartet). No more than two members per quartet may compete in the second quartet in the same regional contest.

Notification of withdrawal must be received <u>in writing</u> by Competition Services at International Headquarters via email <u>from the competitor wishing to withdraw</u>. Telephone calls or emails from Regional Management Team members will not suffice.

IV. From Randy Sahae, Webcast Chair

IMPORTANT: Ordering Your Contest Video and Audio Has Changed

For 2020 we are introducing a new way to own your competition video. The growth of Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and other sources of High Definition (HD) video is exploding and the Regional Management Team has approved a program to offer your competition video as digital media. In our pilot year you will be able to order your video in gorgeous full 1080 HD quality delivered on a USB drive on the same day as the contest.

Competitors will indicate their desire to have a USB drive on the Competitor Spreadsheet that will be sent to them by Joanna Davis, Assistant Competition Coordinator. Competitors must either bring a check for \$20 to the briefing or mail it to Joanna prior to the deadline specified on the Competitor Spreadsheet in order to receive a digital (USB drive) video of their performance. The USB videos are

copyrighted and should not be copied. Additional copies can be ordered from the videographer who will include an order form with your USB drive.

The digital video format has been selected for maximum compatibility with smart phones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers, "smart" TV sets, as well as modern game consoles and even DVD players with a USB port. If you have any concern about whether your computer or TV can play the video file, download the sample file on the R12 website.

For those who prefer a traditional standard definition DVD, or a Blu-Ray HD DVD, or an audio CD, these can be ordered for delivery after contest.

As always, if you want to see the entire contest in HD, please consider purchasing the Webcast (www.R12webcast.media). All purchases support Region 12 educational programs.



Questions? Contact Randy Sahae at randy.sahae@gmail.com

V. From Patti Wright, RCSC Housing Coordinator

2020 HOUSING RESERVATION INFORMATION

Contest time is approaching. The room reservation period began January 22nd and will end March 30th. The room renovations have been completed in both towers. All of the rooms have a mini fridge and a Keurig Coffee Maker with 2 French Roast K-cups available each day. If you want more or a different flavor, you may bring it. There are no microwaves in any of the Nugget rooms. We continue to work with the Nugget to make our reservation process smoother for both sides.

- Reservation period is January 22nd through March 30th
- As always, the Room Captains will be responsible for making the reservations online or by phone.

- The base room rate is \$119 per night.
- With the room renovations, the risk of smoke exposure in the Casino Tower is only if you go
 down to the casino level. There is no smoke smell in the rooms at all and they are now quite
 fresh and beautiful. Please remember that the Casino Tower is further from the traffic pattern.
- Suites are limited and reservations must be made by phone. IF YOUR CHORUS GETS A SUITE IN THE CASINO TOWER – make sure it is on a lower floor so that a key is not needed for folks to come for a visit.
- The easiest check out process would be for the Room Captain to pay the entire bill (this can be done on the TV in the room) and collect the proper amount from each roommate later.
- Know that if you plan to split your bill among roommates, it will take longer checking out on Sunday. Don't wait until you are ready to leave to finalize your bill. You can go to the desk after 7 AM to settle the bill.
- If using valet parking, call down with your ticket number ahead of time. It will take about 45 minutes to get your car.
- Scooters There is a very limited number (15) available at the Nugget at \$40.00/day. A scooter MUST be requested in advance on your reservation form under Special Requests.
- A way to go between towers avoiding some of the casino smoke is on the 5th floor.

All housing information is available through your Chorus Housing Chair and on the Regional website.

VI. From Judi Naill, RCSC Site Coordinator

Are you always thinking of food, rooms to rehearse, rooms for meals, and rooms to check make-up?

Food for thought -

- Dash or Dine Food Bar will be easy to locate near the boutique and Region 12 Registration
- Grab your food and Dash away or Dine in!
- Dining area provided, enjoy your meal, sit with friends, watch the webcast, and shop at the boutique. It's all in one convenient location!
- Dash or Dine times and menu will be in Bulletin 3

Thinking of having a chorus meal? Breakfast and Dinner order forms were sent to Meal Chairs and Team Leaders/Presidents last month. Choruses that intend to have a chorus meal, please notify Judi Naill (j.spike6700@sbcglobal.net) by **February 26th**. The order and payment will be due later.

Need a Make-Up Check Room? Notify Judi Naill (j.spike6700@sbcglobal.net) by <u>February 26th</u>. Please let me know approximately how many ladies in your chorus. Make-up check rooms are set up with tables, chairs and water service. Choruses will need to provide their own mirrors and lamps if desired. Times for the Make-up check rooms are usually an hour. The time will coordinate with Order of Appearance.

VII. From Bonnie Garlow, RCSC Quartet Stroll Coordinator

Quartet Stroll News - Something Old and Something New

Again this year, our competing quartets will have the opportunity to participate in the Quartet Stroll which takes place at the end of Saturday's dinner hour. This is a fabulous opportunity for all quartets to sing for our members either at a chorus meal or at a chorus suite. After Strolling to the various meal or suite locations throughout the hotel, quartets then are welcome to sing at the Afterglow. But there is a change -

Something Old

Quartets choosing to participate in the Stroll can visit as many chorus meal rooms or suites as they choose. The expected start time for the Stroll is approximately one hour after the beginning of the dinner hour. Sometime in April, participating quartets will be provided a Quartet Stroll Guide to help navigate to the various rooms and/or suites throughout the hotel.

Something New

The Afterglow will be divided into two segments - Quartet Happy Hour then Dancing and Music

Quartet Happy Hour - The first hour of the Afterglow will be Quartet Happy Hour. After Quartet Happy Hour, dancing and music will begin. Because of the one-hour time frame, quartets interested in singing at the Afterglow will need to register in advance for a time slot. Time slots are on a first come first served basis. There are fifteen 4-minute time slots, which will allow each quartet to sing one song. These 15 time slots include time slots for the 2020 first place quartet in either division and for our 2020 International competing quartet, RetroActive.

By separating the Afterglow into two segments, the goal is:

- 1. Provide an opportunity for those members of choruses choosing not to have chorus meal or a chorus suite an opportunity to hear our quartets.
- 2. Provide an opportunity for those members whose choruses with meal rooms and/or a suites, another opportunity to hear our quartets.
- 3. Eliminate any backlog for quartets wanting to sing at the Afterglow.
- 4. No disruption of the party vibe once the music starts to play at the Afterglow.

What to Do

If your quartet is interested in participating in the stroll and/or registering for one of the 4-minute time slots, please contact me.

Questions?	Contact Bonnie Garlow at dgarlow@sbcglobal.net or 916-391-3739
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VIII. From Pattie Hitch, RCSC Awards Coordinator

New International Open Division Video Contest

Sweet Adelines International has established a new award available for all choruses and quartets that choose to compete in the <u>open division</u> at our upcoming contests. When they register to compete, each chorus or quartet in the open division will be given the option of asking to be considered for this award.

At the conclusion of the contest season throughout the entire organization, the competition videos of each open division competitor who asked to be considered, will be shown to the Judge Specialist Committee at their meeting in June. The Committee, based on their opinions as to which was the most entertaining, will then select the five top choruses and the top five quartets. Their criteria will be:

- a. Effective creativity and innovation
- b. Theme evident and effectively carried throughout
- c. Vocal skills that enhance the entertainment product
- d. Appropriate content for internet audiences
- e. Competitor level scores from contest are considered, but are only one element in determining the groups for this contest.

These videos will be uploaded on the Sweet Adelines International YouTube channel for viewing and voting. At the conclusion of the two week voting period, the votes will be tallied, the Judge Specialist Committee will be informed and the winners will be announced on the Sweet Adelines International website, Facebook, and other places determined by the Marketing and Communications Department in late July.

Below you will find a link that will take you to the video prepared by SAI to advertise this new award. Predictably, the opening act is Region 12's very own, PDQ!

www.sweetadelines.com/ODVideoContest.

IX. From Nancy Auld, Boutique Coordinator

This year we are pleased to announce we will have THE **Lady Jane**, Nancy Basch, and THE **Gold Medal Ideas** person, Amy Kritzman in our boutique. These ladies designed the wonderful medal surround and jewelry accents that we love around our medals. Both are Sweet Adeline International Sponsors and we are very honored and excited to have them here. In addition, we will welcome back a exciting array of vendors that are familiar to us in our region.

Plus, our very own Pacific Empire Chorus and RetroActive Quartet will have tables full of goodies to sell to help with international expenses as they go to represent Region 12 in Louisville!

We will also have a fun "game" for you on Thursday night this year so make a point of coming to shop early on Thursday evening! Hours are 4 to 9 pm.

X. From Debi Gordon, RCSC Webmaster

Finding Convention Forms: Most of the information that you'll need from the Region 12 website (SAlregion12.org) can be located via several routes; choose any of the options below.

- 1. Select the menu heading: Events > Events and choose the item you want.
- 2. Or, click on: Events > Calendar and select the date you want.

3. **Or,** click on: Downloads > Forms/Handouts, which is just an additional web page available since it might not be obvious to look for the forms on the calendar event itself. No sign-on is required for the above.

For documents that are private to Region 12, a member sign-on is required. These documents are generally the behind-the-scenes paperwork; things like Contracts, Meeting Minutes, Reports, etc. They can be found on the Members Menu under the Documents heading. Scroll to the bottom of that page to find "helpful hints" regarding how to find one of these many convention documents since three years' worth of data is stored.

XI. From Wendy Gibson & Melany Callagher, Assistance Chorus Co-Chairs

Charms

It's time to pre-order Charms for 2020 Region 12 Convention! They are still \$10 each and come in Polished Silver, Polish Gold, Antique Silver, and Antique Gold. Your chorus Charms Chair will have information about ordering and will gather that information on the Charms Order Form which is posted on the Region 12 website. Go to SAIRegion12.org and click on: Events > Reg. 12 Convention

Questions? Contact Greer Malone greershere@aol.com

Jumbotron and program Ads

Region 12 offers our members the chance to purchase billboard ads on the Jumbotron screens in the ballroom during competition. We also offer print ads in our Convention Program. These ads are a friendly way to:

- > CONGRATULATE participating choruses and quartets
- > WELCOME new members
- > **THANK** special people in your chorus
- > **RECOGNIZE** your director or coaches
- **BUILD YOUR BUSINESS** by advertising your products or services

Go to SAIRegion12.org and click on: Events > Reg. 12 Convention

Questions? Contact Kari Francisco at kari@litras.org

