

Nominees for the 2024-2027 Sweet Adelines International Board of Directors

This election will fill three expiring board terms, beginning May 1, 2024, and ending April 30, 2027. The following biographical information was submitted by each nominee.

Note to Chapters: Please schedule your election meeting in October or November 2023.

Ballots will be sent in late September and are due at international headquarters by 3 p.m. Central Time (9 p.m. UTC), Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Questions? Call headquarters at 1.800.992.7464 or 1.918.622.1444 or email corp_secy@sweetadelines.com.



Sharon Cartwright
Vocalescence Chorus
Region 34
14-year member

EDUCATION: High School, Associate Diploma in Performing Arts (Theatre), Queensland University of Technology, Film Production Management Certificate, Australian Film, Television and Radio School, Sydney Australia

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: General management, Communication, Public relations, Facilitation, Presentation skills, Business and digital media writing, Change management, Positive leadership, Situational leadership, Solution selling, Marketing

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: 2013-current: Self-employed Strategic Communication Director, specializing in employee engagement and organizational change communication, 2008-2013 – Strategic Communication Director, Precinct, Sydney Australia, 2002-2008 - General Manager and Director, OgilvyImpact an Ogilvy PR Worldwide company, Sydney Australia, 1999-2002 – Head of Creative Services, Jack Morton Worldwide, Sydney Australia

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES

INTERNATIONAL: 2017 – Present: International Board of Directors member, 2021 – Present: Regional Leadership Committee (Chair in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024), 2021 – Present: Board Resource Advisory Committee, 2018 – 2021: Worldwide Moderator, 2012 – 2017: Regional Management Team of Region 34 – two years as Communications Coordinator and three years as Team Coordinator

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? My broad experience as an IBOD, RMT and Chorus member informs insights that can benefit the Board’s decision making. My experience as a communication specialist in organizational change drives me to consider diverse perspectives and impacts when planning and making decisions. I’m passionate about dreaming big and shaping our future.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? My strengths are strategic thinking, creativity, and resourcefulness. I have skills in visioning, corporate governance, strategic planning. I thrive on connecting people with mutual goals to learn from each other and innovate. I believe Sweet Adelines can offer membership options outside of the traditional chartered chapter structure and competition model.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? My vision is for an innovative, inclusive organization that is committed to serving members. Forward-thinking and responsive leadership sets the agenda for continuous improvement and fresh ways to deliver music education and membership experiences that differentiate us and have the scope to support other music and community organizations to thrive.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Flexible participation models and benefits to encourage member retention in vulnerable life stages and for those with diverse interests. Keep member needs at the center of decision making, adapting as we thoughtfully expand as a global organization. Partner with compatible music and social organizations to bring harmony to more people.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: We have a much-loved brand and a powerful industry voice, attracting funding and high-profile performances. Technology and new revenue streams have enabled ways for leaders, singers, and arrangers to connect, collaborate, compete, and access world-class education anywhere. The joy of singing with friends and individual growth remains at our heart.



Elaine Hamilton
 Forth Valley Chorus
 Region 31
 33-year member

EDUCATION: Secondary School

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: Training/Coaching, HR, Recruitment, Leadership, Facilitation, Customer Service, Leading Teams and Presentation Skills, DCP Certified Director, Regional Faculty training.

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Currently self-employed vocal/quartet/chorus coach. Previously Musical Director of the Edinburgh Police Choir and Assistant Director of a men’s barbershop chorus. Previous employment was with a worldwide bank, employed in the HR, Recruitment and Training departments.

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: International Board of Directors (IBOD), Member of the Regional Leadership Committee (RLC), Member of the Editorial Review Board, Member of the Small - Mid-size Value Proposition Task Force, Co-Chair of IES 2019.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? My communication skills are strong and I actively listen to all viewpoints when in debate. I maintain awareness of the organisational Vision and Mission and Strategic Plan whilst prepared to ask challenging questions if required. I have a global perspective which adds depth to discussions and aids worldwide understanding.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? I am honest, pragmatic, articulate, fair and care deeply about the membership and the organisation. My IBOD and RLC service has provided me with an even wider sense of member, regional and organisational issues. I’m able to balance these various needs to reach resolution/compromise. There’s always a way through!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? Increased membership and retention and continued development of ways to increase income and financial security. Top-class education will make us stand out as leaders in a cappella singing worldwide, with the musical product ever improving. Leadership development will enrich our administrative stability as will greater connections through networking opportunities.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Membership growth and technological advancements will continue to be important. Results from the Member Perception survey will further enrich the organisation’s road map for the future. Continued creativity around all aspects of what we do is necessary to ensure we are relevant and provide value for money for all members.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: We will be the premier provider of vocal education, renowned for musical excellence in a cappella singing, whilst maintaining our barbershop roots. We will be financially stable with a thriving, vibrant and diverse membership through creativity in all aspects of what we do, and members everywhere will feel valued.



Kelli Hinton
Rich-Tone Chorus
Region 25
18-year member

EDUCATION: University of Oklahoma – Sports Management

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Director of Operations for Financial Planning Firm, Patient Access Manager for free-standing Emergency Room

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: Rich-Tone Chorus Team Leader, Rich-Tone Chorus Finance Coordinator, Regional Management Team (RMT) of Region 25 – Finance Coordinator, Panel Secretary, Regional Leadership Committee (RLC) member

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? I feel my financial background and long-range planning skills will allow me to be beneficial for the organization as we work together to maintain a strong fiscal organization. I’m not afraid to use my excitement for Sweet Adelines to ask anyone to do anything for our incredible organization. I have a servant heart and would love to serve SA in this capacity!

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? My extensive involvement at the chapter/regional level allows me the insight into what our members are facing. I’m a creative problem-solver and anticipate needs of the organization. As a member of the RLC, RMT, current Team Leader for the Rich-Tones, and in my professional life, I have participated in a lot of visioning, strategic planning and blazing of new trails.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? To bring joy and harmony into the world, but that means the world needs to know about us! I would love to not be the world’s “best kept secret,” but to step out and make a difference in the world! We are a group that the world can look to as an example of an inclusive group that joyfully embraces music, education, and strong leadership.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Maintain a strong fiscal organization that can be enjoyed for many years to come. In listening to our members, the development of even more creative membership solutions to increase involvement and success, as well as developing more education through technology is a priority. Continue to build on the foundation of success and connectivity we have already established.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: I think Sweet Adelines will be a leader in the world in harmony and leadership development. We will continue to create beneficial relationships with others in the world of music to create more harmony. We will be a diverse, equitable, and sought-after group around the world that provides a safe place to create harmony and build one another up.



Janice McKenna
Chapter-at-Large
Region 13
42-year member

EDUCATION: Regis College, bachelors in economics and political science

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: Director Certification Program certification

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Chief Operating Officer-Mary's Place Seattle, Washington, USA, Director of Finance-KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio, Controller-Entercom Seattle, Washington, USA, Controller-CBS Sacramento, California, USA

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: Sweet Adelines International Treasurer, SA Finance Committee Chair, SA Philanthropy Committee Chair, Panel Secretary, Regional Management Team (RMT) of Region 13 – Finance Coordinator

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? My experience with not for profit organizations allows me to understand how important it is to be fiscally responsible within our organization. Looking to diversify our revenue streams from membership dues is an area where I can add value.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? Fiscal management understanding. Working for many years in the finance realm allows me to add perspective as we look at how we continue to protect the organization for the future.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? Growth of membership is important, but also growth of revenues either by finding new sources or creating events that make money in the future. We have knowingly engaged in deficit spending in this post-COVID year to jump-start the organization again. This is not sustainable, but with the staff's prudent fiscal approach, I feel we are headed in the right direction.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Membership-as we see our aging population, we need to determine what ways to entice younger/new members that will help sustain what's been built over the 75+ years of the organization. Developing marketing strategies to promote our hobby and developing inroads to educational institutions to expand our base.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: Technologically, our online education system will allow us to continue the amazing work of the Education Direction Committee worldwide with nominal costs to members. We are just at the beginning of this journey and will be able to provide members opportunities to continue their SA journey at reduced costs. We have incredible materials available that will be able to be housed on our educational platform.



Mary Teed
Alberta Northern Lights Chorus
Region 26
26-year member

EDUCATION: High School and many, many Educational courses over the years

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: Numerous Managerial Courses, Dealing With Difficult People/Conflict Management, Communication and Negotiation, Time Management, Basic Bookkeeping, Accounts Receivable and Payable, Appointment Book Control, Computer Training, Countless Sweet Adeline workshops, International Education Symposium (IES), Director Training, Certified Director (20 years), RMT training and International Conventions.

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Office Administrator (Dental Office), Computer software/hardware sales and training (Dental), Car dealership office manager, Various sales and administrative positions.

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES

INTERNATIONAL: Appointment to International Board of Directors 2023- 2024, Regional Management Team – three years as Regional Education Coordinator and six years as Regional Director Coordinator, Regional Education Faculty for 20+ years, Chorus Director for 10 years and currently Assistant Director, Chorus Vocal Development Coordinator

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? As a new member to the IBOD, I will bring many administrative skills, experiences and new ideas to the table. I am knowledgeable and have a global perspective with great passion and enthusiasm for this organization! I look forward to collaborating and strategizing with a team to effectively move forward in our ever changing world.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? My strong organizational, leadership and forward thinking traits will be an asset to the IBOD. I am a team player, optimistic, highly motivated, enthusiastic, analytical, inquisitive, open minded and a meticulous person. I continually seek new and better ways to get things done and evolve with the times. I believe anything and everything is possible!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? Over the past years, we have certainly been navigating through some rough and changing waters. As we continue to move forward, I believe we will continue to evolve by using our guiding principles and remain, Sweet Adelines Strong!

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Using the guiding principles of Musical Excellence, Culture of Belonging, Diversity & Inclusion, and Outreach, I believe the sky's the limit. As we continue to grow our membership and live by these principles, the future of Sweet Adelines is very bright! The music will go forth unimpeded and our diversity will, in fact, unify and empower us as an organization.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: In 25 years, Sweet Adelines will be stronger than ever! We are a financially sound and educationally strong organization. Our membership will continue to flourish and empower an even greater diversity of singers and repertoire. With our excellent educators and high achieving performances, Sweet Adelines International will be in the forefront of *all* world class a cappella organizations.