

Nominees for the 2025-2028 Sweet Adelines International Board of Directors

This election will fill three expiring board terms, beginning May 1, 2025, and ending April 30, 2028. The following biographical information was submitted by each nominee.

Note to Chapters: Please schedule your election meeting in October or November 2024.

Ballots will be sent in late September and are due at international headquarters by 3 p.m. US Central Time (9 p.m. UTC), Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

Questions? Call headquarters at 1.800.992.7464 or 1.918.622.1444 or email corp_secy@sweetadelines.com.



Thérèse Antonini
North Metro Chorus
Region 16
31-year member

EDUCATION: Post Secondary Diploma in Computer Programming and Business Systems Analysis, College Certification in Adult Learning

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: PROSCI Change Management (ADKAR), P2P Certification in Project Management, Authenticity Facilitator

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Current – Learning Management System Specialist, IT Consultant. Past – All aspects of Information Technology from Computer Programming through to Project Management

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: President for Assiniboine and Prairie Gold Chapters, Membership Coordinator for Assiniboine Chapter, Events Coordinator for Region 26, International Secretary, International President

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? During my time on the IBOD, I have developed a strong understanding of how important it is that we maintain a strategic level of thinking and decision-making, and I am committed to ensuring my contributions at the table support follow that model.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? I have the ability and desire to bring new ways of approaching board service to the IBOD table. I am always looking for opportunities to expand my own thinking in new innovative ways that add value to my Board service.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? I envision an organization that attracts vibrant, talented members because we are seen as a pivotal force in the lives of our members and our communities around the globe. An organization where we are welcomed, encouraged to grow, and celebrated as our authentic selves.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? It will be most important that we, as an organization, create meaningful connections with and among our members – former, existing and future. We need to provide opportunities for members to share what is most important so we can deliver membership that is of great value.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: We will be a highly respected organization in both the musical and non-profit communities. The impact of the great value that membership brings to our individual members will extend beyond them, and through them will bring positive influence into all aspects of our society.



Jenny Harris
The Annapolis Blend (director) and Harbor City Music Company
(member) Choruses
Region 19
21-year member

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Univ. of Oklahoma; graduate from Nathan Hale High School, Tulsa, OK.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: Front-line, mid-level and executive management, communication, presentation skills, business writing, change management, situational leadership, conflict management, emotional intelligence, mentoring, teaming.

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Retired June 2013. National Security Agency 1989-2013, GS-15 Upper-Level Manager, organizational Chief of Staff, Budget Officer, Mathematician

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: Member, International Board of Directors, 2019-present; Secretary, International Board of Directors, 2022-2024; Task Force Specialist and Resource 2020-present; Director, The Annapolis Blend, 2018-present; Various Task Forces, sub-committees, etc. 2018-present.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? I'm eager to continue bringing fresh perspectives and ideas to the table related to social and cultural change and growth for the organization. I hope to continue bringing my skills to bear on our organization's challenges, especially those unique to small chapters around the world.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? I'm a people-focused, service-minded leader who establishes a vision, creates a positive can-do environment, and leads others in action to achieve goals. I'm an organized, energetic, and efficient critical thinker, and a compassionate and collaborative teammate. I love tapping into the passion and creativity of others to help them succeed.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? Ideally, we'll expand membership in two dimensions: wider geographical reach, and richly diverse and inclusive connections within our existing communities. We'll give more educational opportunities to more members in ways that meet their lifestyle needs. We'll continue to raise the bar on musical entertainment.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Continuing our work in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion sphere; Developing modernized membership options; Continually evolving marketing efforts; Reaching members where they are with programs that meet their needs; Education programs that can be accessed online.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: We'll be thriving and growing, with a diverse membership who feel empowered to explore themselves artistically. We'll have maintained excellence in barbershop style while celebrating success in other a cappella genres. We'll have successfully adapted to the changing needs of our members (membership options, technology usage, funding models, etc.).



Jean Schoenlank
Harmony Celebration Chorus
Region 15
38-year member

EDUCATION: Bachelors in education, Bucknell University; Masters in Curriculum and Learning Environments, Harvard University; Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership, Seton Hall University

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: New Jersey Leaders 2 Leaders Mentoring Program for new administrators, Clinical Supervision of aspiring teachers, various learning styles programs.

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Retired Elementary School Principal; Current Adjunct Professor of Education, William Paterson University

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: Regional Leadership Committee, 2022-present; International Nominating Committee, 2021; Region 15 Education Coordinator, 2017-2024; Regional Faculty Member, 2012-present; Chorus Lead Section Leader/Music Team Member, 2008-present.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? I am an enthusiastic, intelligent, compassionate leader with a good sense of humor. As a leader in my chosen profession and in my region, I have always focused on bringing people together around a common goal, working towards consensus for the good of everyone, using effective communication skills.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? As a longtime member of SA, I possess a deep knowledge of its history while appreciating the changes that have taken place. I can see the big picture while also identifying the details to get us there. I bring tried and true leadership strategies and a healthy perspective wherever I go!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? To foster a community that encourages its members to grow as singers, musicians, and leaders, bringing more people into the world of barbershop harmony who will take the initiative to keep adapting and growing.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? Membership growth is essential to our future, so we must keep finding ways to share what we do in innovative ways. Retention is equally important. The singers themselves make our organization special; therefore, we need to be open, inclusive, caring, and encouraging through education and outreach.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: The past twenty-five years have gone quickly, and we faced challenges we couldn't have imagined. I think Sweet Adelines International will continue to be resourceful and creative as an essential musical outlet for thousands of singers around the world, adapting to the world as it continuously changes.



Valerie Taylor
Vocal Dimension Chorus
Region 31
27-year member

EDUCATION: Law degree from King's College London, postgraduate legal practice qualification, postgraduate diploma in intellectual property, postgraduate qualifications in privacy and freedom of information law.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: Charity Trustee Training (National Council for Voluntary Organizations). The Role of a Non-Executive Director (Whitehall & Industry Group). Estill Voice Training Levels I & II

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Privacy lawyer in private practice and industry; independent privacy law consultant (2002 to date). Board member of *Making Music*, a UK charity with over 250,000 members that supports amateur music groups (2015 to date).

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: IBOD Member and International Treasurer, Education Direction Committee member, Certified Sound Judge and Panel Chair, Master Director of Vocal Dimension Chorus, Director Certification Program Review Committee member.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? As a current Board member, I have a lot more to give to this organization that I feel so passionately about. I have a breadth of experience as a director, singer, coach, Sound judge – and lawyer – that brings a unique perspective. I seek to work collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? I bring clarity of focus balanced with compassion, pragmatism and a healthy dose of realism. As well as project management and governance skills, I can provide the vision and leadership to help guide the future direction of the organization. Strong interpersonal skills mean I can connect with people at all levels.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? Our organization will set the global standard for a cappella singing, enriching singers' lives both musically and personally. There will be competition and performance opportunities to suit all members. Membership will increase in current SA regions, and we will expand in other locations, increasing our diversity and reach.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? To spread the word about the opportunities provided by our organization for personal growth, musical expression and performance in both barbershop and a cappella music. The resulting increase in participation will help ensure the continued success and financial stability of our organization.

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL WILL BE LIKE 25 YEARS FROM NOW: SA will offer unparalleled musical, educational and leadership opportunities using a variety of flexible membership models. Continued growth will allow increased investment in member services. The organization will flourish as the sense of community provided by chorus membership becomes increasingly valuable. The future is full of exciting opportunities!



Mary Teed
 Alberta Northern Lights Chorus
 Region 26
 30-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, IES, Director Training, Certified Director (23 years), RMT training and International Conventions.

CURRENT AND PAST OCCUPATIONS: Office administrator (dental office), computer software/hardware sales and training. (dental field), car dealership office manager, various sales and administrative positions.

LIST FIVE SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP ROLES YOU HAVE HELD IN SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL: IBOD member 2023 – 2025, International Membership Retention Committee – Chair, Regional Education Coordinator (3 years), Regional Director Coordinator (6 years), Regional Education Faculty (23 years)

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL AS A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS? As an IBOD and former RMT member, I offer valuable insights. My role as chair of the Membership Retention Committee has provided a global perspective and understanding of our members' needs and growth strategies. I thrive on contributing to decisions and strategies that propel us forward in an ever-changing world.

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS, IDEAS TALENTS, ETC., WOULD YOU BRING TO THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD? My strong organizational and leadership skills are a great fit for the governing body of the board. Renowned for creative, visionary approaches, I embrace the limitless potential of possibilities as we embark on courageous and forward-thinking decision-making. Infusing board discussions with optimism, analytical prowess, curiosity, and open-mindedness enhances our progress.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION? My vision is to grow Sweet Adelines' reach and impact around the world by amplifying our proven strengths in harmony singing. Creating more opportunities for members to inspire and empower communities we can expand access to the joy of singing and the myriad opportunities it brings for a fulfilling life.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS? The sky's the limit if we drive membership growth, expand globally and embrace diversity and inclusion and nurture both diverse musical expression and musical excellence. Our guiding principles empower us to deliver increased value and opportunities to our vibrant and inclusive communities, pivotal for member retention and sustained growth.

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.