

**SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
286TH (SUMMER) MEETING**

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The International Board of Directors met on June 6, 2019, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Following is a summary of actions taken.

The charter and chapter membership for the following prospective chapters were authorized:

- BackBeat A Cappella Chapter, Region 31, Mottram, Cheshire, UK
- A Cappella Bella Chapter, Region 2, Muskegon, Michigan, USA

The International Board of Directors agreed to reduce the number of Board/Team members a chapter must have and amended the Standard Form Chapter Bylaws to reflect this change (revised Bylaws will be available soon on the website):

- Chapters with Board of Directors form of governance – Four Board members required (officers must include President, Secretary and Treasurer) plus the option to have up to eight more Board members, for a maximum of 12 Board members.
- Chapters with Management Team form of governance – Five Team members required (must include Team Coordinator, Secretary, Finance Coordinator, and Musical Director) plus the option to have up to four more elected Team members, and up to three appointed Team members, for a maximum of 12 Team members.

The Board approved general admission open seating (no assigned seating) for the 2019 Harmony Classic Contest in New Orleans in order to bring the audience forward to the front of the competition arena and to enhance the audience and competitor experiences. Semifinals and finals contests will remain assigned seating, however, attendees will be encouraged to move forward to fill any unoccupied seats in the front of the arena (until the reserved seat holder arrives to claim her/his seat) to enhance the audience and competitor experiences.

International President Patty Cobb Baker announced that she had selected Past International President Cammi MacKinlay as the recipient of the 2019 President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Patti Cooke of Bella a Cappella Chorus, Region 35 was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Ann Gooch Award.

The Board learned that new "Life on a High Note" marketing materials had been uploaded to the website for members' use and that, in addition to messaging that focuses on sisterhood, marketing materials are also available that speak to friendship, being a fan, singing as your passion and musical community.

The Board was pleased to learn that in addition to the "Give" donation button on the Sweet Adelines website, a "text-to-give" pilot is planned for the 2019 International Convention in New Orleans.

The Board approved an updated version of Renee Craig's original song, *The Voice of Harmony*, as an official song of Sweet Adelines International (the song was updated by arranger Joey Minshall), effective January 1, 2020. Plans are to release the updated song at the beginning of Sweet Adelines' 75th Anniversary year.

The Board learned of plans to hold the 2021 Rising Star Quartet Contest in conjunction with the Queens' College in August of 2021 (date and location to be determined).

The Board revised the Mission Statement of Sweet Adelines International:

Elevating women singers worldwide through education, performance, and competition in barbershop harmony and a cappella music.

The Board finalized the five Guiding Principles of Sweet Adelines International:

Musical Excellence:

We honor and embrace artistry, education and innovation in the performance of women's a cappella music while championing the barbershop style.

Culture of Belonging:

We create harmony where every voice matters. We foster a culture that provides a joyful place to share our uniqueness within a global community united in song.

Diversity and Inclusion:

We celebrate our differences as essential to the rich harmony that unites us. As we recognize barbershop's African American origins and learn from our exclusionary past toward women of color, we reject discrimination and unwaveringly strive toward greater awareness, openness and understanding of each other.

Personal Empowerment & Leadership:

We encourage and empower everyone to lead from where they stand. We foster individual skills, nurture personal growth, and provide education and mentoring to develop strong, effective leaders on and off the stage.

Outreach:

We build strong connections by sharing our love of barbershop harmony throughout our communities, countries and the world.

The Board discussed the continued need to provide education on song selection to stress the importance of lyric appropriateness and to discourage lyrics that are exclusionary, insensitive, or offensive to singers and/or audiences (see *Building a Diversity Garden*, January 2019 *Pitch Pipe*, *Toward a More Inclusive Sweet Adelines*, July 2018 *Pitch Pipe*, *Inclusive Music Selection*, October 2016 *Pitch Pipe* for more information). The Board identified several music selection topics for the Education Direction Committee to consider in their education planning.

The Board learned that Director Certification Program modules are now available on flash drive (with digital download to be phased in over the next few months) which will allow content to remain current and easily accessible. Paper copies will continue to be available upon request.

The Board reviewed reports of International committees and Headquarters departments.

The Board reviewed reports of the task forces currently serving the Organization (*a list of task forces with personnel and mandate is available on the website: **About** tab, **Our Board** dropdown – at the bottom of the page*):

- 75th Anniversary Task Force
- 75th Anniversary History Display Task Force
- Arranger Certification Program Task Force
- Chorus Growth Incentive Program Task Force
- Diversity and Inclusivity Task Force
- History/Archival Task Force
- New Membership Options and Research Task Force
- Regional Governance Pilot Project Task Force

The Board learned that additional task forces would soon begin their work:

- Leadership Development Program Task Force
- Online Education Task Force
- *Real Guide to Growth* Update/Rebrand Task Force