

**SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
290TH (SUMMER) MEETING**

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The International Board of Directors of Sweet Adelines International (SA) met on June 10-13, 2020, via Zoom video conferencing. Following is a summary of actions taken.

The Board learned that the Diversity & Inclusivity Chorus Toolkit, developed by the Diversity & Inclusivity Task Force, was being piloted by several choruses for testing and feedback.

With unanimous decisions, the Board committed to actions including but not limited to:

- Changing the SA contest rules so that songs with racist lyrics, messages or history will be unacceptable for performance in any contest setting. Performance of these songs in the 2021 Regional competition will result in a score penalty. Beginning with the 2021 International competition, it will result in disqualification. The phased implementation is to ensure that all members fully understand how to evaluate the lyrics, message, and history of a song before the disqualification penalty takes effect.
- Establishing education and resources to teach SA members how to determine if a song has a racist lyric, message or history. To support this, the development and release of the Song Evaluation tool component of the Diversity & Inclusion Chorus Toolkit is being accelerated.
- Creating an ongoing, living database to which members can continually refer and share information regarding songs that have gone through a review process to indicate whether or not they have racist lyrics, messages or history.

With unanimous decisions, the Board agreed to establish the email safe@sweetadelines.com as a way for members to confidentially contact SA to share their concerns within the Culture of Belonging and Diversity & Inclusivity Guiding Principles (*SA Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles can be found on the SA website: About tab, Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles dropdown*).

To ensure that the work of the Diversity & Inclusivity Task Force continues, the Board also took action to create a body to serve as the permanent stewards of diversity, equity and inclusivity. This body will be known as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council and will be created with wide representation of SA membership.

Due to challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board approved the following for 2020:

- An extension of the 60-day grace period for International per capita fees
- A charter renewal deadline date change to July 31, 2020
- A quartet name registration fee discount and late fee policy (see *Policy Book*, Appendix F, 4) delay until May 1, 2021
- Delay of the release of the 75th Anniversary Book until 2021

The Board reviewed the organization's current financial status and approved a revised 2020-21 budget.

The Board agreed that, as a cost-saving measure for fiscal year 2020-21, there would be two printed (July 2020 and January 2021) and two digital (October 2020 and April 2021) issues of *The Pitch Pipe*.

International President Joan Boutilier announced that Darlene Rogers had been selected as the recipient of the 2020 President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Board learned that 17 new educational videos as well as educational articles had been added to the SA website Education Center during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board learned that a new webpage had been added to the SA website that includes International Faculty name, photo and bio with a link to their resume.

Glenda Lloyd of Brindabella Chorus, Region 34 was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Ann Gooch Award.

Melody Hine of Song of Atlanta Chorus, Region 14 was selected as the recipient of the 2020 NAFME Award.

The Board was pleased to learn that one Connie Noble Memorial Scholarship had been awarded.

The Board learned that the 2020-21 fundraising campaign would be named “Support 75 Years of Life on a High Note” and that a challenge gift of \$25,000 for the campaign had been received from donor, Judy Gordon.

The Board approved a \$400 USD payment to each Region to pay for or supplement their subscription to a virtual platform for fiscal year 2020-21.

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 History Display Task Force
- Chorus Growth Incentive Program Task Force
- Diversity and Inclusivity Task Force
- History/Archival Task Force
- New Membership Options and Research Task Force
- Published Music Task Force
- Small-Medium Chorus Value Proposition Initiative Task Force

The Board learned that additional task forces had begun their work:

- Leadership Certification Program Task Force
- On-Line Education Task Force
- Regional Management Team (RMT) Documentation Review Task Force