

**Sweet Adelines International
International Board of Directors
291st (Midyear) Meeting**

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The International Board of Directors met on October 7-10, 2020, via videoconference. Following is a summary of actions taken.

The Board reviewed and approved the job description for the new Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Council. The mandate of the council is to ensure that diversity, equity & inclusion remain a priority for Sweet Adelines International. *(All committee job descriptions are available on the website: **Resources** tab, **Forms and Document Center** dropdown, **Policy Book**, Section VI.)*

The Board was pleased to learn that, as of September 15, 2020, 105 distinct songs had been submitted via the Song Assessment Tool and that, of that number, 65 had been assessed as admissible. *(Information about the Song Assessment Tool is available on the website: **Education** tab, **DEI Member Resources** dropdown.)*

The Board agreed to form a Song Assessment for Organizational Materials Task Force to ensure that all songs presented in performances and educational material across all Sweet Adelines International platforms (website, etc.) do not include racist lyrics, messages or history.

The Board reviewed the organization's current financial status.

The Board reviewed the report of the annual independent audit by Hogan Taylor, CPAs. The auditor's report included that the financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as of April 30, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The Board agreed to waive the *Policy Book*, Section III, Div. A, 2, rule that requires chapters to compete for scoring or evaluation in a Regional or International competition at least once in the preceding three years in order to renew chapter membership (due to the cancelation of Regional Contests March to May 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic). All choruses must compete **on or before the 2023 Regional competitions**, after which time, the three-year rule will commence and apply to all choruses once again.

The Board was pleased to learn that the fundraising goal of \$200,000 for the *75 Years of Life on a High Note* Fundraising Campaign was going well and that funds were being raised to support the Greatest Need Fund, Education Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Young Singers Fund.

The Board made slight changes to the Patron Membership category, open to fans and supporters of the organization who are not otherwise members of the organization, and established annual dues at \$50 USD.

The Board agreed that, effective October 1, 2021, the name of the *Showmanship* Judging Category would be changed to *Visual Communication*. *(The Judging Category Description Book, once updated, will be available on the website: **Education** tab, **Judging Category Description Book (JCDB)** dropdown.)*

The Board learned that 50 new educational videos, two pieces of free sheet music with learning tracks, and three educational articles had been released to the membership since March 2020. (*This educational information is available on the website: **Education** tab.*)

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
- Leadership Certification Program Task Force
- New Membership Options and Research Task Force
- Small-Medium Chorus Value Proposition Initiative Task Force