



Date: November 27, 2011

To: All Chorus Team Leaders/Presidents
All Competition/Travel Coordinators
All Chorus Directors
All Registered Quartet Contacts

From: Marsha Williams
Chair of the Regional Convention

Dee Lahr
Competition Coordinator

Subject: 1st Communication
Region 9 Competition – April 19-22, 2012
Plaza Resort & Spa/Plaza Ocean / Peabody Auditorium
Daytona Beach, Florida

Hi, everyone! It's that time of year again – the first communication about Region 9 Competition/ Convention 2012! The holidays are upon us and it's been pretty hard to find a minute to get things done! I know this is probably true for all of you.

This year's theme will be "Singin' in the Sand!".

A big welcome to our newest directors: Kay Webb of O-Town Sound, Linda Verzosa of South Shore Sound and Jim Shubert of Venetian Harmony! We welcome all our new quartets as well. This is the first communication with everything you always wanted to know about competition and were afraid to ask!

The Competition Booklet will be sent via email in a couple of weeks – just have a few more tweaks before sending. However, I have included some important points and information in this first letter.

1. **Competition will be held in Daytona Beach again this year.** However, the Hotel this year is the **Plaza Resort & Spa** with overflow at the **Plaza Ocean**. The room rate for all rooms at the Plaza Resort & Spa is \$149.00 plus 12.5% tax. Room rate for all rooms at the Plaza Ocean is \$119.00 plus 12.5% tax. Both hotels have waived the parking fees and there is free wireless in all sleeping rooms.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION!: Please remember that it is against IRS rules to avoid the 12.5% room tax by paying for all member rooms through the chorus. The only exceptions are rooms that are considered expenses for the chorus such as the director's accommodations and/or a room that the entire chorus will use for various activities. So please advise your members that they will need to pay the room rate **PLUS** the 12.5% room tax per night.

2. **Busing:** Everyone will be transported to and from the Peabody starting on Friday for the briefings. However, trips on Friday prior to the Quartet Contest will be limited so please be sure to look at the schedule when published to ensure you don't miss it! All competitors will be transported via bus or van/SUV to the Peabody on contest days.
3. **Assistance in the Pattern:** Information on where all the rehearsals, etc. will take place will be coming soon with the Competition Booklet. **PLEASE EMAIL THE NAMES OF THOSE NEEDING ASSISTANCE AND WHO ARE UNABLE TO RIDE THE BUS TO DEE LAHR (HARMONYD@VERIZON.NET) NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2012.**

Also, please remember that the Region does not provide wheelchairs or scooters and any member who requires a wheelchair must have someone to push the wheelchair throughout the pattern. Your hostess will stay with you until the scooter or wheelchair has entered the lobby area after you compete, but she is not responsible for pushing the wheelchair.

4. **For choruses:** There will only be **ONE RISER CONFIGURATION** this year so there will be only one draw for order appearance. If you have questions about this, please contact Marsha or Dee.
5. **Briefings:** The quartet briefing will be at 11:00 am on Friday and the chorus briefing will be 11:30 am on Friday at the Peabody Auditorium just as last year. Quartets will have an opportunity to walk across the stage to the mics, practice a bow, and exit the stage immediately following their briefing and prior to the official inspection.

All chorus members and quartet members are invited to participate in the Official Inspection at 12:00 pm on Friday in order for the Panel Chair and stage crew to set the lights and sound for the contest. Please encourage your members to attend since we will need a minimum of 100 on stage for this. We will have busing available to them to and from the Peabody. **NOTE: AFTER THE INSPECTION, PLEASE ALLOW THE COMPETING QUARTETS TO GET ON THE BUSES FIRST AS THEY MUST PREPARE FOR THEIR PERFORMANCES LATER IN THE AFTERNOON.**

6. **Photography:** We have contracted again this year with Ed Lilley for our photos. Ed has been qualified as the official photographer for Sweet Adelines International and he has been highly recommended by Region 9 International competitors. Quartets will have their pictures taken as part of the pattern. Chorus photos will be taken on stage. **Both quartets and choruses should bring your photo orders and checks to the briefing.** We will collect them and deliver them to the photographer.
7. Regional Registration paperwork will be sent out soon and the deadline to return to Sylvia Bell is February 10, 2012. Housing paperwork will be sent out soon and the deadline to return to Diane Corrie is March 10, 2012.
8. Competition packets from International will be **EMAILED** to choruses and registered quartets on or around January 5, 2012. **PLEASE NOTE THAT NO HARD COPIES WILL BE SENT VIA U.S. MAIL!** If have not received a packet via email by the last week in January, please call International Headquarters - Music Services at 800-992-7464. Quartet registration deadline is February 20, 2012 (late entries by March 6, 2012). Chorus registration deadline is February 21, 2012 (late entry March 7, 2012). Registration fee for quartets is \$100. Chorus registration fee is \$150.

PLEASE NOTE – ANY QUARTET THAT WISHES TO COMPETE IN APRIL MUST HAVE REGISTERED THEIR QUARTET WITH INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BY JANUARY 15, 2012 TO AVOID ADDITIONAL FEES. ALL COMPETITORS MUST HAVE PAID THEIR

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE.

Order of appearance will be drawn February 27, 2012. I will send this information to everyone as soon as it is posted. It can also be accessed after the drawing on www.sweetadelineintl.org in the Competition section.

9. **Shopping Bags WILL NOT be provided by the Region.** Please bring **ONE** bag for your quartet with your quartet name on the bag. Choruses should bring at least **one bag for each row** – please put your chorus name on the bags.
10. **2012 Competition Area on the Region 9 Website:** The 2012 Competition area on the Region 9 website (www.sairegion9.com) is where you will be able to review and download all the updates, forms, Time & Traffic Patterns, etc. associated with competition and the convention. All of the forms will be in .pdf format to make it easier for anyone to read and print. These will be posted on the website as soon as possible after each email goes out from Marsha. We hope this will assist everyone in getting all information in a timely manner. All correspondence sent to choruses and quartets will also be posted on the website in this area.

On behalf of the Regional Management Team and the Convention Steering Committee (listing attached), we wish you a very successful and fulfilling competition experience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

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Bradenton, FL 34211
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Convention Steering Committee 2011-2012

Chair	Marsha Williams (O-Town Sound) 403 S. Sunland Drive Sanford, FL 32773 (407) 257-2611 (cell) (407) 741-8684 (work) (407) 643-2591 (fax) marswilliams35@yahoo.com (home) m.williams@atlantichousing.com (work) Use 1 st email as primary
Competition Coordinator	Dee Lahr (Toast of Tampa Show) 10705 Forest Run Drive Bradenton, FL 34211-9389 (941) 755-8358 (h) (941) 727-3727 (f) (941) 400-9149 (cell) harmonyd@verizon.net
Official Panel Liaison	Sandy Everly (Toast of Tampa Show) 4600 Huntley Lane Sarasota, FL 34232 (941) 371-7116 (h) (941) 320-0633 (cell) svweverly@comcast.net
Housing Chair	Diane Corrie (Spirit of the Gulf) 2354 Harvard Avenue Fort Myers, Florida 33097-4250 (239) 931-6292 (h) (if you have questions prior to contest weekend, please email Diane and she will call you) musicnurse@embarqmail.com
CC Assistant	Do Lahr (Toast of Tampa Show) 10705 Forest Run Drive Bradenton, FL 34211-9389 (941) 755-8358 (h) (941) 753-7700 (w) (941) 727-3727 (f) (941) 400-8987 (cell) doloveszoos@verizon.net
All Events/Individual Events	Sylvia Bell (Spirit of the Gulf) 3880 Lyons Road #104 Coconut Creek, FL 33073 (904) 803-8337 (cell) sybilsing@aol.com
Awards Chair	Kay Webb (O-Town Sound)) 5514 Stull Ave. Orlando, FL 32810 (407) 740-5233 (h) slyvox@aol.com

CRC Assistant	Barbara Rolison (CAL) 2061 Grove Lane Clearwater, FL 33763 (727) 474-3440 (813) 546-6101 Brolison1@tampabay.rr.com
Thursday Night & Saturday Night Show Chair AND Events Coordinator	Sue Giesler (CAL) 5231 SW 101 Ave. Cooper City, FL 33328 (954) 450-2870 (954) 632-6447 (cell) events@sairegion9.com
Spirit of the Gulf Assistance Chorus Chair	Polly Ann Nanfito 128 Wading Bird Drive Venice, FL 34292 (941) 484-7589 pnanfito@verizon.net or pnanfito@gmail.com
Plaza Resort & Spa Contact	Kathy Masterson 600 N. Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach, FL 32118 (386) 255-4471
Peabody Auditorium Contact	Jill Jaquet 600 Auditorium Blvd. Daytona Beach, FL 32118 jaquetj@codb.us (386) 671-3462