



**From Karen Fish – Chair of the Regional Convention
and Mary Dean Heil – Region 12 Events Coordinator**

Hello Region 12!

This is the first of 3 bulletins leading up to our convention
May 14th-17th, 2026 at the Nugget in Sparks, Nevada

We have an exciting new happening this year!

An ALL REGION dinner!

After the success of several other regions we decided to try this. We anticipate a joyful transition from dinner into the afterglow.

There will be more information to come.

From Nancy Blom - Region 12 Finance Coordinator

Convention AEB's and Guest tickets (required to perform or attend)

-IF you choose the EVENT PASS for Region 12 Dues, your AEB cost is covered. You will still need to register with your chorus, but there will be NO additional cost for your AEB.

-IF you choose the DUES ONLY option for Region 12, your AEB will be \$150/member, and you will pay via your chorus.

-IF you are a CAL member OR a member of another region or MAL, the above applies EXCEPT you will pay the region directly via Nancy Blom, Region 12 FC.

Discounted AEB's:

1) If you are a Youth member (25 or under) and you don't have an EVENT PASS, your AEB will be \$75

2) If you have been a member of SAI for 50+ years and don't have an EVENT PASS, your AEB will be \$75

3) If you are a GUEST (non-SAI member). A 2-day AEB = \$60, and 1-day ticket = \$30. Guests from the state of Nevada (with ID) 1-day = \$10.

We have 2 ways to pay: by check OR via Zelle.

For more information, or any questions, please reach out to Nancy Blom at:

Reg12Contest@gmail.com

From Suzanne Olsen - Housing Coordinator

Reno Housing

We will once again be at the Nugget Casino Resort: 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV. You can make reservations on line by using the following link:

<https://nuggetcasinoresort.book.pegsbe.com/promo?offerCode=GSA DI26&hotel=NCR>

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Or by calling 833-577-4426. If you call be sure to tell them you are with Sweet Adelines and the booking code is GSADi26. Reservations may be made now..

Room rates for Sun-Thurs are \$89, and for Fri-Sat \$164 for a standard single or two queen bed room. Taxes are currently 13.5%. There is a \$2.00 tourism surcharge, and a daily resort fee of \$10.00 per night. Additional persons will be charged at a rate of \$10.00 per person, per night, with a maximum of 4 persons per guest room. The fees include

- * Daily complimentary wireless internet in guest rooms
- * Complimentary local phone calls
- * Daily complimentary bottled water, 2 bottles/day
- * Keurig coffee maker
- * In-room safe
- * Unlimited use of the year-round Atrium Pool
- * Unlimited use of the Fitness Center
- * Self-parking in the secured covered parking structure

The Hotel accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or Diners Club. There is a \$4.95 merchant fee per room, per stay for credit card payments.

If you need to book connecting rooms, you can book 2 rooms, then call to arrange to have them “connecting”. There will be a \$20/room, one time charge, so an extra \$40 for two connecting rooms. If you have any special requests it is better to call.

There are 8 scooters available from the hotel. If you absolutely need to have one, contact me directly and I will let the hotel know. After the 8 are gone, the hotel will contract with “Scooter Girl” to provide one. BOTH options are \$50/day.

Cut-off date is 4/18/2026. ALL bookings must be done before this date.

Suzanne Olsen
R12 Housing Chair
solsen@sbcglobal.net
925-212-9840

From Dana Gervais - Official Panel Liaison

2026 regional contest is going to be epic! We have a wonderful panel PLUS two trial judges! Some returning and some new faces. Region 12 is the place to be!

2026 Regional Panel:

Michelle Little – Sound

Peggy Gram – Music

Annette Wallace - Expression

Renee Porzel - PANEL CHAIR and Visual Communication

Robin Mickle - Panel Secretary

Two Trial Judges:

Kimberly Graham – Sound

Kim Andrews - Visual Communication

It's such an honor to represent Region 12 in every communication with the panel and during the weekend. Judges pick this assignment for a reason. We truly are the best.

From Connie Ludwig – Boutique Coordinator

The search for vendors for Boutique 2026 is underway.

Nancy Bosch will return with Lady Jayne. I also received an application from a brand-new vendor who heard about me from Nancy Bosch of Lady Jayne at International. She sells Lipsense and other beauty products.

I'm still marketing for vendors; I've posted a "Vendor Call" flyer on Reno Crafters, Sacramento Crafters (a Facebook group), Northern Nevada Fairs and Vendors (also a Facebook group) and a new one: fairsandfestivals.net for Nevada.

I'm still looking for more food vendors, such as popcorn or candy. If anyone knows of a local vendor, please let me know. Call or text me at 707-246-6309, or email me at cjdwig5696@gmail.com.

From Randy Sahae – Webcast Coordinator

WEBCAST 2026

Yes, we're holding the price for the second year in a row.

Yes, We will be at the Winter Song Fest for you Early Bird purchasers

Yes we'll have website purchase enabled by the time the Order of Appearance is released, but why wait? See you in Walnut Creek.

From Joanna Davis Competition Coordinator

Contest season is upon us once again! There's a lot about this event that will be the same as in years past ... like your Competition Coordinator team!! I am your 2026 Competition Coordinator and Kim Macheck and Desiree Hughart will be my assistants. If you see any communication from any of us, please read and take action, if necessary. We really appreciate your quick responses!!

But there are some changes that are coming from Sweet Adelines International, aka IHQ, that I want you to be aware of. I know this part of the bulletin is long and our attention spans have gotten really short (at least mine has), but I encourage you to read this section completely! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me!

In harmony,

Joanna Davis

Competition Coordinator, Region 12

Email: 1983mjDavis@gmail.com

Home Phone: (408) 227-7461

Cell Phone: (408) 550-5980

Please Read the [Competition Handbook](#)

When and Where is the Contest?

Region 12's next convention and competition will be held on May 14-17, 2026 at the Nugget Casino and Resort located at 1100 Nugget Ave Sparks, NV 89431. The Nugget Ballroom, on the 2nd floor of the casino, will be the room where the actual contest is held.

How Do I Register My Group for Contest?

Sweet Adelines International (IHQ) sent an email on or about **January 30, 2026** stating that registration for contest is now open. Only directors, team coordinators/presidents or treasurer may register a chorus to compete at contest; and only the person designated as the Quartet Contact may register a quartet to compete at contest.

Quartets and Choruses may use the links below to register their group as competitors in the 2026 Region 12 Sweet Adelines contest:

- [How to Register Your Chorus for Competition Online](#)
- [Chorus Entry Form](#)
- [How to Register Your Quartet for Competition Online](#)
- [Quartet Entry Form](#)

Additional information may also be found at the links below:

- [Chorus Competitor Portal](#)
- [Quartet Competitor Portal](#)

Note: You must first log in as a member before attempting to access these pages.

What are the Dates and Deadlines for Registering?

01/30/2026	Contest Entry Opens
03/16/2026	Quartet Entry Deadline (\$125 fee)
03/31/2026	Quartet Late Entry Deadline (\$100 additional fee = \$225 total fee)
03/17/2026	Chorus Entry Deadline (\$200 fee)
04/01/2026	Chorus Late Entry Deadline (\$100 additional fee = \$300 total fee)
03/23/2026	Initial Drawing for Order of Appearance Posted
04/06/2026	Final Order of Appearance Posted
05/15/2026	Quartet Contest
05/16/2026	Chorus Contest

What's a Division?

A Chorus or Quartet may choose to compete in **one** of **FOUR** divisions. The following describes each division:

1. Evaluation Only
 - An evaluative competition option that is NOT a qualifier for any competition at the International Convention
 - Competitors will sing two (2) songs or medleys that are appropriate for a Sweet Adelines competition
 - Performance is not to be more than seven (7) minutes in length
 - Judges write comments on their category scoresheets and indicate a level score for each song (no numerical score)
 - Competitors receive the scoresheets with level scores, levels are not published
 - Not eligible for medals or placement
 - Not eligible for Audience Choice Award
2. Evaluation: Internationally Bound
 - Competitors that will compete at the next International Quartet or Chorus Semifinals or Harmony Classic are eligible to compete for Evaluation Only: Internationally Bound
 - Performers will sing an entertainment package consisting of the following:
 - i. One (1) song or medley appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines competition
 - ii. At least one (1) other song
 - iii. Emcee material
 - Performance is limited to fifteen (15) minutes
 - Judges write comments on their category scoresheets and indicate a level score for each song (no numerical score)
 - Competitors will receive written score sheets with level scores only; levels will not be published
 - Competitors in this division are held to the same penalties as Open Division Competitors
 - Competitors must obtain approval from the RCSC in order to compete in this division. Email the CRC, Karen Fish (muzcalfish12@gmail.com), with the request
3. Open Division
 - An evaluative competition option that is NOT a qualifier for any competition at the International Convention
 - Performers will sing their package consisting of:
 - i. One (1) song or medley appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines competition
 - ii. At least one (1) other song

iii. Emcee material

- Performance is limited to ten (10) minutes in length
- Judges write comments on their category scoresheets and indicate a level score for each song (no numerical score)
- Competitors will receive written scores sheets with level scores only; level scores are published
- Not eligible for medals or placement
- Eligible for Audience Choice Award

4. International Division

- Serves as a qualifier for the 2027 International Chorus Semifinals, Quartet Semifinals, and Harmony Classic competitions
- Must be performed onstage during a live event
- Performers will sing two (2) songs or medleys appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines competition
- Performance should not be more than seven (7) minutes in length
- Competitors will receive written score sheets with number scores; scores are published
- Not eligible for Audience Choice Award

Is There Any Other Way to Perform for Evaluation or Open Division?

Yes, any quartet or chorus, including prospective choruses and current champion quartets and choruses, may submit a video recording for Evaluation Only or Open Division by marking the appropriate box on the entry form submitted to the Competition Department at IHQ.

Things to note:

- Competitors choosing this option are required to pay the competition entry fee
- The official panel evaluates the recordings after viewing the level performances prior to judging the contest
- Submitting a video recording does not fulfill the requirement of choruses to compete every three years in order to maintain their charter
- The chorus or quartet will not be eligible for any prizes or awards
- The chorus or quartet submitting a video recording may not perform on the regional contest stage for evaluation or placement in the same year

See Section VI: **Video Evaluation Guidelines** in the [Competition Handbook](#).

How Does International Decide the Order of Appearance?

The Competition Department at IHQ will conduct the drawing for Order of Appearance on 03/23/2026. For complete details on how the draw occurs, review the [Competition Handbook](#).

**New this year:
Evaluation Only and Evaluation Only: International Bound competitors will be interspersed among all competitors rather than drawn first**

Here are the basic rules:

- Any contestant that indicates on their registration form that they wish to perform first will be handled separately and inserted in the beginning of the contest. The Host Choruses (Pacific Empire and Mission Valley), if they are performing for Open Division, Evaluation Only or Evaluation: Internationally Bound, may request to sing first or last
- All other registrations are drawn randomly after that
- Once the draw has occurred, any late entries will be placed at the beginning of the contest after those contestants that opted to perform first
- The Initial Order of Appearance will be posted on the Sweet Adelines website on 3/23/2026. The Final Order of Appearance, that will include any corrections and late entries, will be posted on 4/6/2026. Links to these documents will also be posted on [Region 12's website](#), under the [Convention 2026](#) tab on the main page (you do not need to log in as a member to access)

What is the Schedule for the Weekend?

The following schedule is **preliminary** and may change after the final Order of Appearance has been published. So please read all future bulletins and communications!

Thursday, May 14

- Quartet & Chorus Check-in/Meet & Greet - 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm
- Quartet & Chorus Combined Briefing - 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Quartet & Chorus Traffic Pattern Walk-Thru - 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Friday, May 15

- Sound Check Chorus Warm-up - 8:45 am – 9:00 am
- Official Inspection/Chorus Sound Check - 9:00 am
- Official Inspection/Quartet Sound Check - Immediately following Chorus Sound Check
- Quartet Walk-Ons - 11:30 am
- Quartet Competition - 2:00 pm

Saturday, May 16

- Chorus Competition - 1:00 pm

What Will the Stage Look Like?

We will be using the same stage as last year. The stage is 60' wide by 40' deep by 36" high. It is built of 4'x 8' carpeted platforms supplied by the Nugget Hotel and Casino. The stage will be surrounded with rails for safety and black pipe and drape. On stage left, there will be a 4' wide, ADA compliant, ramp that will be used for all competitors to enter and exit the stage. The ramp will have a non-skid runner to assist members walking up the ramp. On stage right, there will be a set of stairs with handrails. These stairs will only be used with permission from the Competition Coordinator.

For the quartet contest, there will be five folding sections that will form a backdrop for the quartet (same as in the past several years). Two sections will be on stage right and two sections will be on stage left and there will be a middle section. This set up will allow quartets to enter either from stage left or from the center.

For the chorus contest, there will be nine sets of 6' 3-step risers with the 6' back step and back rail. The middle riser section will be inverted. The outermost tips of the risers will be 12' from the edge of the stage. The measurement from the edge of the stage to the middle of the first riser row will be approximately 20'. An off-white choral shell will be placed behind the risers. Additional black pipe and drape will be used to make entrances and hide the backstage area. The stage will not have a curtain.

For a visual picture of what was described above, see the [Stage Diagram](#) on [Region 12's website](#), under the [Convention 2026](#) tab on the main page (you do not need to log in as a member to access).

What about Lights and Sound?

Quality theatrical sound and lighting will be provided by JMF Enterprises, the same people who were used last year, although they've changed their name.

For the quartet contest, two small diaphragm cardioid condenser microphones will be positioned as directed by IHQ.

If approved by the Panel Chair, there will be stage monitors.

Chorus microphones will be flown overhead.

Lighting will come from a truss hanging above the stage. There will be lights between the risers and the shell so that all chorus members are lighted equally. JMF Entertainment will adhere to the requirements set by IHQ.

Open Division Competitors can use up to three microphones: 1) center stage microphone, 2) stage-right microphone, and/or 3) stage-left microphone. The microphones will be set-up as listed on the Open Division Cue Sheet, which is due to the Competition Coordinator team 30 days prior to contest.

It is possible that there will be speakers that will provide sound to the back of the ballroom, amplifying the sound coming from the stage. These speakers must not interfere with the Judges, who are to hear only unamplified sound. **The Panel Chair has the final say during the**

Official Inspection whether these speakers will be used or not. Once the sound has been approved by the Panel Chair, no changes can be made.

Will the Audience be Able to See the Competitors?

As in past years, there will be two large Jumbotron screens positioned at either side of the stage. The audience, wherever they are seated, will have a wonderful close-up view!!

Do We Have to Worry About Copyright Clearance?

Yes! It is up to the competitors to obtain the appropriate licenses for their songs. When you register to participate in the competition, there is language on the registration form that pertains to licensing and copyright.

IHQ is responsible for administering the copyright policies and procedures. There are 2 documents on IHQ website that can provide more information on Copyrights: 1) [Copyright Matters](#); and 2) [Copyright and Licensing](#). If you have questions regarding copyright policies and procedures, please contact [Music Services](#).

Can We Sing a Song with Parody Lyrics?

Yes, but you must get permission from the owner of the copyright holder(s) and get clearance from IHQ. See the documents on Copyright listed above. You must also submit your parody lyrics for approval. See the links at the bottom of this section regarding the Song Assessment Tool.

Note: You will need to submit the parody lyrics and the email that you receive from IHQ approving the parody lyrics to the CC Team prior to the briefing. More information on sending the lyrics will come later.

Can My Friends and Family at Home See Us Perform?

Absolutely!!! Our webcast team will be set to provide a top-notch live broadcast from Sparks, Nevada directly to your loved ones most favorite device! More details to come in this or future bulletins – so be on the lookout!

Will Photographs Be Taken?

Yes! Our photographer will again be Jon Read from Read Photography. The photographer will take all quartet photos at the beginning of the pattern in a quartet photo room. Chorus photos will be taken on stage at the end of the chorus' performance. More information will be sent to competitors after the Final Order of Appearance has been published.

Will Video Recordings Be Made Available to the Competitor?

Yes! Our videographer will again be John Dietrich.

However, there are some changes. Mary Dean Heil, should have informed you of the price increase for the video files (\$50 for the 2 chorus files, and \$25 for the single quartet file). We are also changing how file(s) will be delivered.

Competitors will no longer receive a flash drive of their performance; rather, in the week following contest, I will send a password protected link to the competitor. The competitor must have paid the appropriate amount at the briefing in order to receive the link(s) to their video files.

If a competing group does not purchase the video files, per IHQ's requirements, that group will receive an audio-only file of their performance, free of charge, sometime in the weeks following contest.

Note: **There will be NO post competition sales of your performance video.**

I Use a Mobility Device, Can I Still Perform?

Absolutely, you can perform! Whether you wish to take your mobility device on stage with you or park it close to the bottom of the ramp or something in between, the Competition Coordinator team will work with you to make sure you get your moment in the spotlight. At a later date, we'll ask for more detail about people who will need to use mobility devices! Also, the hotel will rent scooters, wheelchairs, or other devices – look for another article in this bulletin or the next one from the Housing Coordinator regarding how to rent a mobility device!

Do I need to tell IHQ that my group has ...

- Changed personnel?
- Changed locations?
- Have regional affiliation updates to make?

The answer is YES! If you take care of these little details now, my team will not have as much work to do when we confirm your registration! It would be very much appreciated!

I Sing in More Than 1 Chorus, Can I Perform with All My Choruses?

Yes! The Competition Coordinator team will work with all Dual Chorus members to make sure they can change their costumes and get back into the pattern in time to take the stage with their alternate chorus(es). There will be a Dual Member Changing area just off stage on stage-right. Most dual members will find that they have plenty of time to get off stage, change, and get back into the pattern. Occasionally, there will be some very quick turn arounds and we'll work with you to make it happen.

After the Final Order of Appearance has been published, an email will be sent out to Team Leaders and Directors asking if they have any dual members and which choruses they dual with. So, if you are a competing dual member, let your team leader and director know – make their job easy!

Are There Any Rules from International That I Should Know?

- As a reminder, in 2025, IHQ changed the number of members used to determine if choruses qualify for Division A and AA awards. Choruses qualify for Division A if they have 12-25 competing members and Division AA if they have 26-50 competing members; choruses with 51 or more competing members are considered large choruses
- Quartets planning on competing in the 2026 Quartet Contest must have registered with IHQ by January 15, 2026, otherwise an additional registration fee will be assessed
- Review the Competition Eligibility Requirements to ensure your chorus or quartet are eligible to compete in Region 12:
 - [Chorus Competition Eligibility Requirements](#)
 - [Quartet Competition Eligibility Requirements](#)
- All the rules for competing can be found in the [Competition Handbook](#). All competitors are encouraged to read this document prior to registering to compete. Also, there is some great information in the following documents:
 - [Regional Quartet Contest Info Packet](#)
 - [Regional Chorus Contest Info Packet](#)
- A chorus must compete for scoring or evaluation at an International or Regional Competition once every 3 years in order to maintain their charter. A chorus that competes for Evaluation Only or Open Division will have met the competition requirement. Evaluation Only/Open Division **by video** does NOT meet this requirement.

Song Evaluation Database

All songs that are sung in any Sweet Adelines International contest must have received an “Admissible” rating prior to its performance in the contest. Parody lyrics must also be approved. The original arrangement of the song must be admissible before the parody lyrics can be approved.

For more information on song assessment, visit the [Song Assessment Tool](#) page or use the links below:

- [Song Evaluation Database](#) (password: \$ing2023)
- Review the [Guide to Columns and Navigation/Search](#)
- Review the [Questions in the SAT Form](#)
- Watch the [Preparing SAT Submissions Instructional Video](#)
- Watch the [SAT Submission Tutorial](#)

- [Fill Out the Song Assessment Tool Submission Form](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Further questions can be directed to: songassessment@sweetadelines.com

Where Can I Get More Information?

Here is a summary of most of the links found in this document for your convenience (you may need to be logged in as a member to be able to get to these pages):

- [Regional Quartet Contest Info Packet](#)
- [Regional Chorus Contest Info Packet](#)
- [Song Assessment Tool](#)
- [Song Evaluation Database](#) (password: \$ing2023)
- [Competition Handbook](#)
- [Stage Diagram](#)
- [Chorus Competition Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [Quartet Competition Eligibility Requirements](#)
- [Chorus Competitor Portal](#)
- [How to Register Your Chorus for Competition Online](#)
- [Chorus Entry Form](#)
- [Quartet Competitor Portal](#)
- [How to Register Your Quartet for Competition Online](#)
- [Quartet Entry Form](#)
- [Copyright Matters](#)