

Let's Sing Again!

Fifteen weeks until our
61st Annual Regional Convention and Competition!

As the holidays approach and 2023 draws to a close, now is a good time to look ahead to our **61st Annual Great Gulf Coast Region #10 Convention and Competition March 21-24, 2024!!!** Chorus Team Coordinators/Presidents/Directors/Finance Coordinators and registered quartet contacts by now should have received an email forwarded from Sweet Adelines International headquarters regarding getting your ensemble registered as a competitor for the 2024 Spring Competition. Deadlines to register as a competing ensemble are available through the chorus or quartet competitor link in that email.

Separate from letting SAI know that your ensemble is planning to cross the stage as a competitor is all the planning that goes into our convention weekend. Details are still being finalized and we will get those out to you shortly after the new year begins. In the meantime, here are some realities/changes/adjustments required to make sure our convention is a success, from not only the competitor perspective but also from the audience and financial perspectives:

- 1) **REGISTRATION COST INCREASE:** Based on the number of anticipated members and also the ever-increasing cost of labor/services, 2024 convention registration will be \$125 per person. Registration is required for all Great Gulf Coast Region #10 members who plan to attend. Individual event tickets for non-Reg10 members will be available for purchase on site at \$30 each for quartet competition, chorus competition and the Saturday night Show of Champions. Everyone wishing to enter the ballroom will need an individual event ticket or registration name badge.
- 2) **HOTEL RESERVATIONS ON-LINE THROUGH HILTON WEBSITE:** Housing reservations for the Hilton Houston North will be done directly by our members through a link provided which will access our SAI rates. One person from each room will need to register through the on-line link and provide a credit card to guarantee the reservation. We will no longer be coordinating the reservations and will not be the go-between for Hilton rooms. **Please wait until you get our specific Reg10 registration link before trying to make reservations.**
- 3) **COMPETITION STAGE:** The competition stage may be slightly smaller than in past years although we hope this will not be noticeable to most competitors. As we have done in the past several years, we will have only one riser configuration. (9 sets of 6 ft inverted risers)
- 4) **NO BACKDROP DRAPE FOR QUARTET CONTEST:** We will not have a backdrop drape for our quartet competition. All quartets will need to enter by walking across the stage from the emcee side (stage left). This is a significant labor and materials savings from previous years. Research through other regions has indicated that not having the quartet backdrop does not have a significant impact on the sound.
- 5) **WEBCAST PRICE INCREASE:** Our 2024 webcast price for all three events: quartet competition, chorus competition and Saturday night Show of Champions plus viewing for two weeks following contest weekend will be \$30. Webcast price increase is a result of technical setup requirements instituted in 2023 by the Houston Hilton North audio-visual company.
- 6) **GOOGLE FORMS:** We are working to create Google forms for most of our required forms and we are working on our payment methods/options where applicable. Some SAI required forms may still be in fillable pdf format.

We suggest that each chorus appoint a Competition Coordinator who is responsible for informing your chorus of all required details and helping to assure all forms and money are submitted by the provided deadlines. Competition information and forms will be available after the first of the year at the Region 10 website: www.region10sai.org. If you have any questions or need clarification on any of these points, please contact Cheryl Pyle, CRC, at CRC@region10sai.org.

The Competition Steering Committee is here to serve and help in any way possible to make your contest experience enjoyable. We look forward to seeing you! But first, have a very happy holiday with lots of love, family and friends!

Yours in Harmony,

Cheryl Pyle, Chair of the Regional Convention

Euna Poole, RMT Events Coordinator

Kellie Welsh, Co-Competition Coordinator

Roz Jones, Co-Competition Coordinator

Janet Moe, RMT Finance Coordinator

Laura DeGraw, RMT Marketing Coordinator/SC Webcast Chair

Joni Miller, SC Official Panel Liaison (OPL)

Vicki Davis, SC Registration Chair

Darline Lejeune, SC Rehearsal/Meal Logistics Chair

Janet Burnett, SC Harmony Expo/Silent Auction Chair

Jodi Ceaser, SC Volunteers Chair

Mary Hower, SC Awards Chair

Kay Hammett, SC Pattern Chair