



Happy New Year! Welcome 2024, and welcome to your first Regional Convention and Competition Mailing of 2024!

The Regional Convention Steering Committee (RCSC) hopes that you all had a healthy and happy holiday season, and you are as excited as we are about the start of our 2024 Region 19 Contest Season!

SAVE THE DATE:

Our Regional Convention and Contest will be held **Thursday, May 16 - Saturday, May 18**, at the same location as last year: Lancaster Marriott Penn Square in Lancaster, PA.

CONVENTION WEBPAGE:

The 2024 Regional Convention website will be updated by mid-January - additional updates will be added over the next few months, so bookmark the page, and check it often: <https://www.region19sai.org/2024-convention.html>

2024 REGIONAL CONVENTION THEME AND LOGO:

Valley Forge, your 2024 Host Chorus, is in full preparation mode, and excited to have you **"Paint the Town"** in Lancaster! When asked to come up with a theme and logo, the chorus embraced the task and had this to say about their logo and theme:

Valley Forge Chorus is proud to be your Host Chorus for the 2024 Convention!

We are so grateful to be part of a region filled with singers who love to throw their hearts into a song. So this year, we're inspired by the song "Here and Now" (made famous by The Buzz), and have this wish for our fellow Region 19 Sweet Adelines: "Don't worry what tomorrow morning's papers say - throw all your cares away, stand the place on its head, paint the town red, and make your bow!"

Join us in Lancaster to ring the roof off the building and celebrate the joys of our barbershop community. Let's paint the town!

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES:

The Thursday night festivities and opening ceremony were well-received by those who responded to the post-convention survey. **Therefore, we will have the Joint Chorus and Quartet Briefing on Thursday, May 16; however, we have adjusted the check-in time to 6:00pm**, and other changes will be made to help facilitate a smoother check-in process - I'll be sharing these with you in future emails.

We have added a Thursday night class with our assigned Expression Judge Karen Sweeters. We will once again gather to celebrate our 50/60 year members, our new members and others with regional accomplishments during the opening ceremony on Thursday night!

Additional educational classes will be held on Friday, as well as the Mass Sing. Again, watch for future emails about these opportunities.

RISER CONFIGURATION:

For your contest planning purposes, please note that only one riser configuration (large, inverted center) will be used this year.

HOUSING:

Sally Kelly, Events Coordinator, has worked with the hotel to address the housing concerns from 2023. Once again, members will be handling their own reservations via a link that will be published on the website in mid-January. You are encouraged to make your reservations as soon the link is published.

IN SEARCH OF:

Competition Facilities Coordinator (CFC)

- The RCSC is sad to announce the pending retirement of Marsha Adelson as Competition Facilities Coordinator (CFC). We are looking for someone to shadow her for the 2024 contest, and then take over for the 2025 Regional Contest. Below you will find a short synopsis of the job duties and responsibilities:
 - The CFC works closely with convention site staff, and is the liaison between them and the RCSC.
 - The CFC is responsible for making arrangements with the venue for all convention site preparations, and specifying all room set-up requirements. This includes the audience seating area, boutique, pattern/warm-up rooms, the judging pit, traffic patterns, etc.
 - The CFC attends all RCSC meetings (all are held via Zoom, with the exception of the following onsite meetings: facility review meeting held six weeks prior to contest, the pre-contest meeting Thursday night and post-contest meeting held Sunday morning following convention).
- Qualifications:
 - Strong organizational and administrative skills
 - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
 - Ability to make decisions, as well as delegate responsibility
 - Must be flexible
- If you're interested and/or have further questions about this position, please contact Marsha at conventionfacilities@region19sai.org - the job is not as daunting as it sounds (Marsha has it down to a science), and a full job description can be sent to anyone interested in learning more.
- The RCSC thanks Marsha for all of her hard work, and she will be missed once she retires from this very important position!

Convention Photographer

- We are also seeking a Convention Photographer for Regional. If you know a photographer who might be interested, please direct them to <https://www.region19sai.org/photography-rfp.html> for an RFP and more information.
- Here's a short summary of the requirements:
 - The photographer **MUST** have a camera capable of taking the onstage photos at a distance of approximately 100ft. There will be space on the video platform for the photographer.
 - A separate room will be provided for quartet photography.
 - The photographer should plan on arriving no later than 1:00pm on Friday to set up for the Quartet Contest which typically starts around 2:30pm.

- The Chorus Contest usually starts about 11:00 am on Saturday, and the Show of Champions is Saturday evening at 7:30 or 8:00pm.
- Final times will be confirmed 30 days prior to the event.

OUR 2024 JUDGING PANEL:

Sound: Beth Smith (Panel Chair)

Music: Sharon Carlson

Expression: Karen Sweeters

Visual Communication: Sandi Wright

Panel Secretary: Diane Brilz

That is all for now!

In Harmony,

Di Bartel

Chair - Regional Competition and Convention Steering Committee

