



Greetings Region 19 and Happy Almost Spring!!

Your RCSC team is hard at work, and things are starting to heat up as we get ready for our 6-week pre-convention on-site visit on April 1st!

There are lots of changes and new information in this mailing, so please read carefully!

Additionally, there have been some changes to the [regional convention website](#) so don't forget to check back often!

Deadline Reminders:

- **Quartet Entry Deadline (through Sweet Adelines International): March 20**
Chorus Entry Deadline (through Sweet Adelines International): March 21
- **Draw for Order of Appearance: March 27**
- **Regional Contest Registration/All Events Badge Deadline: April 18**
 - **Registration Reminder:** Per the Region 19 Standing Rules, all attending Region 19 members must pay regional convention registration fees (separate from Quartet and Chorus Entry Fees, which are paid to International).
- **Housing Deadline: April 26**

Important Change: Seating Assignments

At the International Convention 2022 in Phoenix, SAI implemented a General Seating concept, with the exception of VIP seating. **This year Region 19 will be implementing the same General Seating policy.** Per the Regional Standing Rules (Section VII: Regional Convention, G1), VIP seating will be available for past Region #19 International Champion Quartets, current Region #19 Regional Quartet Champions, current and past International Presidents, previous International Chorus Champion directors, Region #19 RMT, RCSC committee members (including past RCSC for two years), and visiting dignitaries. Normally includes the Most Improved Chorus in VIP seating; however, there was no 2022 Most Improved Chorus. Should there be a 2023 Most Improved Chorus, its members will be assigned VIP seating for the 2024 Regional Contest.

Those with special seating needs, and their caretakers, if necessary, will also be accommodated (this request may be found on the Regional Convention Registration form).

Updates on Bringing Back "Convention" to Our Regional Contest Weekend:

- **Thursday Night Activities: "Celebrating our Members"**
 - Please remember the Joint Briefing (for quartets and choruses) will be held at 7pm, Thursday, May 18.

- Immediately following the Joint Briefing there will be a Regional Awards Ceremony where Regional leaders will acknowledge those who have made great achievements in our region (these have been traditionally awarded during the Saturday Night Show of Champions). We will also have new acknowledgements for first timers and longevity awards.
- Following the ceremony, there will be a Social Hour for you to mix and mingle with your regional friends.
 - **New:** Microphones and speakers will be set up, and we invite quartets to entertain us with a song or two to help “get those contest jitters out.” We also invite everyone to join in on some tag singing as well!
- **Friday Activities:**
 - The Education Team has some exciting classes for Friday:
 - A ‘newbie class’ hosted by Sherry Stanton for those new to the regional experience.
 - “Putting Together an Entertainment Package” with Lustre Quartet.
 - Additionally, we will also have dedicated time to run through the Mass Sing songs before we go out to the square and perform for the public.
- **Saturday Evening Activities: “Celebrating Our Champions!”**
 - This year we are adding new performers to the show of champions because we want to celebrate ALL our division winners:
 - The Host Choruses: The Annapolis Blend and Shades of Harmony
 - Novice Quartet Winners (1 Song)
 - Most Improved Quartet Winner (1 Song)
 - Audience Favorite Quartet Performance
 - Platinum (Formerly Senior Quartet) Winners (1 Song)
 - Audience Favorite Chorus Performance
 - Most Improved Chorus Winner (1 Song)
 - 2018 Queens of Harmony - Lustre
 - 1st Place Small (Div A) Chorus Winners (2 songs)
 - 1st Place Midsized (Div AA) Chorus Winners (2 songs)
 - 2023 Region #19 Quartet Champions
 - 2023 Region #19 Chorus Champions
- **Show of Champions and Afterglow:**
 - A cash bar will be available during the Show of Champions and the Regional Afterglow will start immediately following the Show Of Champions in the function space located right outside of the Freedom Hall Ballroom.
 - Hospitality Rooms
 - Several choruses have already taken the opportunity to host Hospitality Rooms. If your chapter is interested in hosting a Hospitality Room, please contact [Sally Kelly](#), Events Coordinator. Room rental fees will be \$100 for the evening. Once Sally has confirmed that your chorus has a Hospitality Room reserved, you will then work with the hotel regarding food and beverage options.
 - Quartets are encouraged to visit the Hospitality Rooms, which will be located on the second floor. Signage will let everyone know where to find these Hospitality Rooms.

Registration Packets:

Due to the lifting of COVID restrictions, your friends may pick up your Registration packet for you in the Boutique area.

Function Space:

If your chorus is planning on a chorus breakfast/meal please reach out to the hotel contact listed under *Function Space* in the [Deadlines](#) grid on the regional convention website. There are a limited number of rooms to have a chorus meal, and these rooms will be assigned on a first come first serve basis.

Photography:

If you are in a non-competing registered quartet, consider the opportunity to use the JB Photography, the official convention photographer, to take professional pictures of your quartet for promotional purposes and/or to update your picture on the regional website! The *Quartet Photography Form* may be found under the *Links to Google Forms* in the [Documents](#) section of the regional convention website.

Convention Program:

The online Convention program will be available online for download or printing prior to the contest.

New: Regional Program Shout-Outs! For \$6.00 per shout out, you can spread some love, accolades or high fives to your favorite quartet, chorus,, section, coach – anyone you want! Shout Outs, limited to 30 characters, will also be read on air during the webcast. Click [here](#) to submit your Shout Out, or check the Convention Program section of the [Regional Convention Website](#).

Video Billboard Ads:

Choruses, quartets, and individuals: get your message out to a captive audience as it scrolls by on two jumbo screens in front of over 900 attendees and 1000's of webcast viewers. Big screen ads are shown on the screens during contest between competitors. These ads are a GREAT way to promote, support, and acknowledge your chorus, quartet, upcoming event, favorite coach, director, or business! Are you selling costumes, looking for a director, in need of a tenor? A video ad is a great way to advertise, and your \$50 ad will run the entire weekend! For more information, see the [Video Billboard](#) section of the regional convention website.

Webcast:

Region 19 will again be hosting a Webcast! Your webcast hosts will be Lori Crouter and Lori Dreyer (both of 2018 International Champion Quartet Lustre) for the Quartet Contest, and Sarah Nainan-Newhard and Maggie Ryan for the Chorus Contest.

The webcast remains free to watch but donations are greatly appreciated to offset our costs! **Suggested Minimum Donation: \$20 per contest session.**

That is all for now! And, as always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out!

In Harmony,

Di Bartel

Chair - Regional Competition and Convention Steering Committee