

Spring 2026 Issue

Tune in with 10 o - n - l - i - n - e



2026

Your Regional Management Team

As the newbie on the team, I'm taking the liberty of providing some perspective on the workings of the team and their responsibilities. I shadowed my mentor, Karla Fenton, for about six months before committing to join the team. My first official team meeting as a member was last week and it was a budget meeting. It was a long one, but necessary where the budget for each team member was reviewed and Regional contest was discussed at length.

First let me say, that your RMT members are hard-working, thorough, knowledgeable and carry a lot of weight on their shoulders. In addition to their individual task assignments, as a whole they are responsible for keeping the wheels on the Region bus out of a ditch. Not an easy task as the region has been shrinking in size a little each year, making the revenue that pays for the things the Region does, less and less. See Janet Moe's article (p3) about the financial challenges the Region faces and how they're being met.

The new Leadership Academy was instituted by SAI to nurture future leaders who will take on the challenges of their local chorus, region or international organization. To preserve the hobby we love, we need new and innovative leadership to keep our organization moving forward and growing. See Carin's article about Leadership Academy (p2).

If you get a chance to thank members of the RMT, please do so as they do an excellent job of sustaining the Region 10 mission to provide opportunities for education, performance, leadership and personal growth. I'm not counting myself in that round of thank-yous as I'm just getting started and I have big shoes to fill. But I have been impressed with the people with whom I've joined ranks.

Kathy Pillmore,

Region 10 Communications



REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



DIRECTORS COORDINATOR

What a fabulous time we had on contest weekend! I must say how proud I am of all of the directors who prepared their choruses to perform for us as well as those who did not compete at this year's contest. Our chorus directors work tirelessly in so many areas other than the execution of rehearsals and performances.

I appreciate all of the singers who came to the Mass Sing and lifted their voices together. Also thanks to all of the singers who participated in the sound check for the judges on Friday morning.

Some of our choruses are going through director searches or have new directors. Make May a Director Appreciation Month as they begin again to make plans to educate our singers for the next Sweet Adeline year.

Sing-cerely

Mary Beth McMurray

directors@region10sai.org



MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Our first **Leadership Academy** will begin at *Summer Splash* with classes by Paula Davis. Participants will attend two in-person sessions and three Zoom sessions over a one-year time frame with graduation at Regional Contest 2027.

Membership Growth Award

Many questions have come up about how the Membership Growth Award is calculated. On March 1st (or there about) I refer to the Sweet Adelines Membership database. I see how many members per chorus are on record on that day. If a director is listed as a member, I do not count the director as some choruses do not have a director listed as a member (example: male directors). I compare the current, of record, members vs last year's count and determine if there was a growth in their membership.

EX: Harmony Singers Chorus had 25 members of record in 2025 and has 30 members as of March 1, 2026. That is a 20% increase in growth.

For more information about Leadership Academy or Membership Growth please contact me.

Carin Williamson

membership@region10sai.org

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



FINANCE COORDINATOR

I hope everyone had a great time at Contest/Convention. For those of you who were not there, we missed you and hope you can attend next year. While everyone else is busy before contest, the busiest time for Finance is after the contest ends. There are numbers to crunch, bills to be paid, reports to be run to get ready to budget for next years' contest, contracts to sign for next year. It's a long list.

As of 5/1/26 we have 380 unique members in the Region. (I know, we are all unique 😊). There are over 30 dual members at this time, which is amazing. But with this small number of members, we do not have the luxury of the “old days” when we had over 600 members and an abundance of regional assessments (dues) flowing in. Therefore, the RMT is continually challenged to be extremely frugal and creative, to be able to continue to offer the level of education that you have come to expect and deserve.

With a new venue for Contest/Convention again this year, we had expenses that were different than they were in prior years, which is why we had to institute a “fair share” food and beverage minimum for all contestants participating in this years' Contest/Convention. In order to secure the hotel and all the meeting rooms needed for rehearsals, judges, and other needs, the hotel imposed a \$15,000 food and beverage minimum to use those rooms for free. Any amount under the \$15,000 would be paid by the region to make up the difference. We spent nearly \$12,000 of that requirement, and the hotel graciously waived the difference acknowledging the challenges that occurred in their restaurants and with the boxed lunches. Also, by going to a flat floor (no stage) saved the region nearly \$10,000, which is a huge amount, when it comes to the bottom line for contest/convention expenses. The cost for contest this year was roughly \$48,000. We continue to be fiscally responsible, without sacrificing the contest experience.

Of course, there is more to the Sweet Adeline's experience than contest (WHAT????!!!), and the RMT is continually being good stewards with your money. We still strive to bring the best educational experiences possible and offer multiple opportunities for you to attend whether in person or via zoom. This past year, SAI provided Region 10 with \$3,500 in T.H.R.I.V.E.* money that was spent helping choruses with various needs. This money is also allowing the region to hold the upcoming Leadership Academy sessions to build the next generation of Chorus and RMT leaders. SAI will provide an additional sum of money for 2026-27 to continue this work. Membership is in charge of how that money gets spent.

As always if you have any questions or concerns about the financial status of the region, you are welcome to contact the Finance Coordinator via email, at finance@region10sai.org.

**To Help Regions Increase Vibrant Engagement*

Janet Moe

Finance Coordinator
finance@region10sai.org

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



Hello Region 10!!

What a GREAT contest we just had!!! We received great feedback from the judges that will be useful as we move forward planning *Summer Splash* for this June and Winter Regional for Jan 2027.

Speaking of *Summer Splash*, it is coming up quickly. June 12-13, 2026, in Houston. Be sure to keep a lookout for all the details on the website, they may already be there by the time this is published. Our faculty will be Paula Davis, no stranger to Region 10! The focus will be “Express Yourself!” and we are planning some fun activities to go along with that, as well as the wonderful education that Paula will provide. In addition it will be the kickoff for our new Leadership Academy!

We are planning a Zoom educational event for Sept 19, 2026. Stay “tuned” for more details on that as we get closer to that date.

Coming up in January 2027 will be Winter Workshop with Mary Rhea! She is a Queen of Harmony, the Immediate Past President of SAI, and a certified judge in the Sound category. In addition Winter Workshop will include our fabulous Youth Event, organized by our Youth Coordinator Laura DeGraw. If you were at this past Winter Workshop, you know what a fabulous performance the girls put on for us! Many expressed wanting to return, and Laura will be doing outreach during the year especially in the Austin area. Some of Alamo Metro members are planning to do some outreach in San Antonio as well, so we expect a great turnout! If you know any young women who might want to participate be sure to let Laura know.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our events, and please feel free to contact me if you have questions or ideas or need music education help in any way.

In Harmony

Ethel Lowther

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Youth in Harmony will return to Austin in 2027!

After the incredible response to this year’s Harmony: For Good event during Winter Workshop weekend in Austin, plans are already underway for the next event on January 16, 2027!

This past January, more than twenty young singers from across Central Texas came together for a full day of four-part barbershop harmony, musicianship, teamwork, and performance. The workshop concluded with a standing-room-only audience for the Saturday evening showcase, and many participants are already planning to return next year — some even expressing interest in forming quartets for the return of the youth quartet contest.

Region 10 extends sincere thanks to Caroline Durrett for directing another outstanding workshop experience in 2026. Caroline’s ability to create a joyful, encouraging, and musically excellent environment made a lasting impact on both returning singers and first-time participants alike.

We are also excited to announce that Holly Janda will serve as the musical director for the 2027 Youth in Harmony workshop! Holly’s enthusiasm, creativity, and passion for barbershop make her a wonderful addition to the program, and we are thrilled to welcome her into this role.

This year’s event was made possible not only by participating singers and their families, but also by the support of Region 10 members who volunteered, promoted the event locally, encouraged young singers to attend, and helped create such a welcoming experience for the next generation of barbershoppers — our Rising Stars of Region 10. Thank you for continuing to invest in the future of our art form.

As the program continues to grow, we are always in need of volunteers, supplies, and financial support to help keep Youth in Harmony opportunities accessible and affordable for young singers. Members interested in supporting the program — whether through donations, mentorship, outreach, or hands-on assistance during events — are encouraged to contact Laura DeGraw at youth@region10sai.org.

More details — including next year’s theme, music selections, and quartet contest information — will be announced in the months ahead. We can’t wait to see where this growing program leads next!

Laura DeGraw

R10 Youth Coordinator
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QUARTETS

KLIMB Quartet

KLIMB loved competing in regional this year. We are thrilled to have been named 3rd place with our highest score yet, 587. We improved our 23 points from last year. All 4 of us were sick within the three weeks before regional with the upper respiratory crud so we are thrilled that we were able to put our best on stage.

Now, we will start searching for the best competition songs and get ready for a year of practice, improving our sound and looking forward to the future.

We have time to learn some new, fun songs and who knows maybe even learn more about KLIMB Dog training platforms! This may just be what we need to take us to new heights! See you at Summer Splash! Karla, Lynn, Marlys and Beth



HOT NOTE: A New Chapter

This year marked the beginning of a brand-new chapter for Hot Note as we welcomed Lauren to the quartet and began building a fresh sound together.

The past several months have been filled with long rehearsal weekends, new music, lots of laughter, learning moments, and probably more Mexican food than we should admit in a regional newsletter. Along the way, we've spent a lot of time refining our musical connection, digging deeper into storytelling, and discovering what this particular combination of voices can become.

This spring's regional contest was especially meaningful for us, as it marked Bebe's very first contest singing bass and Lauren's first quartet contest ever. We were honored to earn the title of Region 10 Silver Medalists with a score of 604 and are incredibly proud of what this new foursome has accomplished together in a relatively short amount of time.

More than anything, this season reminded us how much joy there is in making music with people you genuinely love spending time with. We're grateful for everyone who has supported and encouraged us along the way, and we're excited to continue growing together in the year ahead.

Laura, Bebe, Denise, and Lauren
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Lauren, Laura, Bebe, Denise

QUARTETS

Precious Tones:

A Sweet Sound on the Rise

It has been an exciting and fast-paced season for the newly formed quartet Precious Tones, and their journey is just getting started! In just a few short months, this talented group has been making waves—growing musically, connecting with audiences, and embracing every opportunity to learn and perform.

The quartet attended the Region 25 Quartet Retreat, where they immersed themselves in learning and growth. They were fortunate to receive coaching from outstanding leaders.

Performance opportunities have been just as plentiful. Precious Tones enjoyed singing alongside Lone Star Chorus at Parkwood Retirement Community. Valentine's Day was especially memorable. The quartet joined the celebration of National Barbershop Quartet Day, with fellow singers at Goodtimes Chorus in Arlington.

One of their most exciting milestones came when they auditioned for Parker County's GotTalent—and were selected as one of just eight acts to perform!.

Precious Tones traveled to Houston for the Region 10 contest. In an impressive showing for a brand-new quartet, they earned 6th place overall—and proudly took home the title of 2026 Novice Quartet. Not bad for a group that's only been singing together for four months!



Better Than BeFour

Better Than BeFour Quartet, comprised of Tenor - Kadi Conklin, Lead - Melonie Mills, Baritone - Laura DeAngelo, and Bass - Kathy Wilson recently competed in the Great Gulf Coast Region 10 Competition and Convention.

Living up to their moniker, BTB4 earned 4th place as well as Most Improved Quartet after raising their score by 25 points over the previous year. These girls are committed to musical growth and continue to thrive despite the challenges of being a long distance quartet - a distance that is growing even greater as Laura relocates to Chicago. Even across the miles, Better Than BeFour remains dedicated to sharing great harmony, laughter, and a love for Barbershop music.



SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Rising Star
Quartet Contest
 Friday, July 10, 2026
 Tulsa, Oklahoma

Where Stars Are Made!

1st Place **\$3,000** 2nd Place **\$2,000** 3rd Place **\$1,000**

Enter To Compete!
www.SweetAdelines.com/Rising-Star

October 26-31, 2026 Columbus, Ohio, USA Greater Columbus Convention Center

RING CHORDS in COLUMBUS
Again!

COLUMBUS
 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & COMPETITION

TULSA ROUTE 66

Sweet Adelines International's
Rising Star

Sweet Adelines International's
A CAPPELLA ACADEMY
 and **QUEEN'S COLLEGE**
with The Coronet Club

Diamond Division
 QUARTET CONTEST

JOIN US IN TULSA, OK, JULY 9-11, 2026!

www.SweetAdelines.com/Diamond-Division

Diamonds are 4-Ever!

QUARTET CONTEST
 Thursday, July 9, 2026
 Tulsa, Oklahoma (USA)

Enter to Compete by June 1.

Entry forms are accepted in the order they are received, with a maximum of 35 quartets accepted. Forms received after the contest reaches capacity will be placed on a waiting list.

BATON ROUGE CHORUS

Spring has sprung and Baton Rouge Chorus is all about planting barbershop seeds and growing!

Since the last TIWT, we have added four new members! Mary Lynn, Holly, Lisa, and Michela are all Leads and we couldn't be more pleased to have them singing with us!

Gina Baker of Sirens Quartet and Spirit of the Gulf Chorus was the coach at our retreat in February. What a wonderful weekend we had as Gina and Sherry nurtured us and shared so many tips and lessons on becoming a better chorus! Our theme for contest was Dream Big so of course, we had to wear our PJ's! We put in hard work but then had lots of laughs on Saturday night with our



BRC's four new members

annual No Talent Talent Show! I hope there is a correlation between laughing hard and singing well!

We've also been busy growing our performance outreach with four more concerts down and one to go in early May! February 26th we joined forces with the men's chorus, Red Stick Sound, and the choirs of



February retreat

University High School to present Live, Loud, & Swingin', an old time radio broadcast show. This was a ticketed show with sponsorships. Then on March 8th we had a free concert at our library's main branch with our Sweet Harmonies program followed on March 11th with a small group entertaining for the Women's Community Rehab Center luncheon. We repeated the Sweet



Library concert



Baton Rouge sweet harmonies

Harmonies show for the residents of The Claiborne retirement center on April 9th for a full and enthusiastic audience!



Friday night dinner at contest

Then contest weekend came and it was time for us to really bloom! We had such a great time that Friday watching the awesome quartet competition, then afterward eating and singing together at a Mexican restaurant! It was the first contest for nine of our members (one third of our 27 onstage)! There were nerves all around, but we were so happy to receive the 3rd place AA medal! It was Director Sherry's very first medal

for our chorus and she is still walking around on cloud nine! We were also able to honor Cindy Stevens as our Wall of Fame recipient. It was great to be with all of our Region10 friends again!

Bebe Caldwell will travel to meet with our chorus the May 2nd weekend so that she can talk to us about the THRIVE initiative. We look forward to her visit and her help in strategic plans for our future.

Summertime will find us continuing to blossom as we get ready for a Broadway/Patriotic collaboration concert with Crescent City Sound Chorus and the men's Red Stick Sound Chorus. We'll perform in Baton Rouge



Baton Rouge newbies at their first contest

before Independence Day and then in New Orleans around Veterans Day. We won't be letting the grass grow beneath our feet for sure!



Baton Rouge Chorus at Regional competition

Submitted by Emily Wascome
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HEART OF THE PINES CHORUS

It has been a busy spring for Heart of the Pines

We've been working on contest music and coaching to improve vocal skills. We were thrilled to have both Mary Beth McMurray and Kerri Mauney as coaches. Both are so encouraging and we always learn so much. How exciting to see how such small changes in vowels, breathing, and phrasing can make such big changes in our vocal production and performance.



Coaching with Mary Beth McMurray



Lunch and coaching with Kerri Mauney

HEART OF THE PINES CHORUS

Regional contest was so much fun! We won both the Membership Growth and Nancy K. Carter awards and brought four new members to their first contest.

Next on the agenda is starting new music for our fall show scheduled for October 3, a revamp of our “Sing Across the USA” show from 12 years ago. It will definitely be a busy summer!



First timers at contest



Heart of the Pines Chorus at Regional Competition

Submitted by
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SPARKLING CITY CHORUS

Spring Awakens the Sounds of Harmony

Birds singing and chirping awakens the sounds of nature but for us spring is our pivotal time of vibrant sounds of harmony. So to help us achieve our signature look and ring, our chorus has utilized none other than Janet Burnett to coach us. We received a shot full of *Miracle Grow* from her expertise. Her sense of humor and approach kept the chorus on our toes and our instruments in check with the PVI's.



Coaching with Janet Burnett



Flour Bluff FunTrackers

Just like spring is a renewal season, we find our sound sprouting new blooms/sounds much like the world around us shifting from static to a resonant sound. Thank you Janet!

That transition between head voice to chest voice can be a little fountain of refreshing sound when done correctly as we were given the opportunity to showcase a song or two during a public relations event at Flour Bluff FunTrackers.

The sounds of spring waters individually swishing around and then meshing together as a unified sound represented our Valentine Singing Grams. The clarity of the lyrics and the proper articulation of our vowels unified our voices as we sang Valentine songs especially one of our favorite songs, *We Are Family*.



Valentine Singing Grams



We also had a blissful breeze as we took St Patrick's Day to another level of spring harmony by posting daily well wishes for the **WHOLE WEEK** while singing, "Irish Blessing." These refreshing opportunities are the thread of unity that weaves our community through our music utilizing



advertisements via FaceBook and other social media.

St. Patrick's with Four Leaf Clovers

SPARKLING CITY CHORUS

The emotional impact is often where the “magic” of Sparkling City Chorus truly lives. For many of us, that moment of hearing those angelic overtones feels less like a technical achievement and more like a physical sensation of belonging. Our new collective sound is so much more powerful as our chorus is now sounding like we have doubled the size of our members.

Who doesn't like a spring shower and a little sunshine? We will definitely be having a shower for Veronica Villarreal (Tenor) our 1st time mama-to-be and her bundle of sunshine as we welcome our 2026 Addy Baby in November. Congrats Veronica!



Sparkling City's Mama-to-be Veronica Villarreal

The sweet fragrance of spring had us buzzing around congratulating our 2025 Sparkling City Chorus Sweet Adeline of the Year, Marge Crocker (Tenor). Our chorus is blessed to have such a positive role model to emulate. CONGRATS MARGE!



Sparkling City's Sweet Adeline of the Year, Marge Crocker

Submitted by
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IN LOVING MEMORY

VALORIE J. SURFACE

September 21, 1938 – April 4, 2026

One of our Sisters in Harmony, Valerie Surface, died April 4, 2026. From her tribute, "...One of her greatest passions was having contributed to weekly worship for the entirety of her life in her church choir and for over forty years she sang with the Sweet Adelines, sharing her gift and bringing joy to many through song. Her life was a song of gratitude, her legacy a garden of love. Now as she continues her worship of the Lord into eternity, Valerie's memory blooms in every heart she touched, her spirit now singing among the angels glorifying God and enjoying Him forever..."



CHISHOLM TRAIL CHORUS

Our chorus is still on Cloud 9 from Regional Contest!

We earned **Third Place Overall; First Place Division A; and Most Improved Chorus** for our set, “*The Moment I Saw Your Eyes*” and “*May I Never Love Again*.” We last captured the Div A Trophy in 2016 – 10 years ago! The awards are a testament to the hard work of our members, directing team, music team and coaches.

Did you see our new sparkly blue costume jackets? Huge thanks go to **Houston Horizon Chorus** for gifting us leftover material and to former member **Carolyn Bottomley** for sewing every single one as her gift to our chorus. We are blessed by their generosity.

Now, we need to backtrack a bit since we missed submitting an article to the *Winter TIWT* issue.



Posing in April 2026 with our trophy and medals in Houston: Third Place Overall; First Place Division A; and Most Improved Chorus



Highlights from “Welcome to the Dew Drop Inn” featuring quartets Regale, Better Than BeFour, and Just Us

November – Highlight this month was our

annual show, “*Welcome to the Dew Drop Inn*,” held at the Temple Civic Theatre. It was a thrust stage with audience on 3 sides and had a wonderful, intimate feel. This was the first time to use this venue and our audience loved it. Assistant Director **Sheila Donahue** wrote the script, which was set in the charming lobby of a 12-room inn. At the front desk, an ambitious clerk is chasing her dream of becoming a weather anchor. As she waits to hear back from her big audition at the local TV station, she hones her on-air skills through a whirlwind of pun-filled forecasts, with help from our chorus. We also invited three guest quartets to perform: **Regale Quartet**, 2025 Sweet Adelines International Diamond Division Quartet Champions; **Better than BeFour Quartet**, 2025 Region 10 5th Place Medalists (and now the 2026 4th Place Medalists); and **Just Us**, Chisholm Trail Chorus’ chapter quartet. A very profitable silent auction ran before the show and through intermission.

December – multiple performances put us in the holiday mood, including a tree lighting ceremony for the city of Belton, TX; Santa at the Train Depot (children’s event where we got to ride a “train” of colorful wagons); and “*Hometown Holidays*” at the Temple Civic Theatre.



We stuffed into a little “train” after performing at the Santa Fe Depot in December 2025

CHISHOLM TRAIL CHORUS



Janie Macchiaroli excels at one-on-one sessions during voice-placing. Below Janie with the chorus.

January – Former Sound Judge **Janie Macchiaroli** voice-placed us for contest and during that process, she gave us individual coaching tips to enhance our sound.

February – Retreat Weekend had to be canceled due to icy weather. Fortunately, our coach and SAI Approved Expression Judge **Kerri Mauney** was able to reschedule and we held a one-day session with a potluck lunch. Kerri's experience and knowledge as an Expression Judge helped us



Holly Janda with our director Carol Scherer

Part of Holly's coaching session was a class on Characterization



fundamentally change the delivery of our contest pieces.

March – **Holly Janda**, baritone of CLEVER GIRL Quartet 2025 Queens of Harmony and (at that time) new Interim Director of Alamo Metro Chorus, was in the house for an amazing coaching session. Many of our members commented on how her techniques for storytelling and emotional vulnerability took them to a new level in their performance.

April – **Kerri Mauney** popped back in during a regular rehearsal, since she was already in town to rehearse with Regale Quartet. It's amazing how



much an hour of her time can boost our self-confidence and set us up for success. Speaking of, we want to give a shout-out to **Regale Quartet** and R10 Director's Coordinator **Mary Beth McMurray** for stopping by our rehearsal on Saturday morning of contest weekend. They all provided that extra spark of energy and passion to remind us why we love this barbershop 'hobby' – it's the music and friendships that bring us together.

submitted by Carol Mouché
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The many expressions of an
Expression Judge - Kerri Mauney

HOUSTON HORIZON CHORUS

It's been a busy few months for Houston Horizon!

We kicked off the year by bringing a little extra flair to our rehearsals. In February, we traded our usual attire for some themed dress-up days. We shared the love for Valentine's Day and, when we couldn't make it to the Mardi Gras parade due to our rehearsal schedule, we brought the parade to us! There's never a dull moment when Houston Horizon Chorus gets together to celebrate.



Valentine's Day rehearsal and Mardi Gras Parade

In March, we got down to some serious musical business with our first coaching session of 2026 with Patrick McAlexander. We finished rehearsal feeling inspired and energized!

On April 11, we celebrated National Barbershop Quartet Day by gearing up for a truly massive collaboration: "Houston in Harmony: A Celebration of A Cappella Music." This event was a total hit and a true joint effort, featuring performances by our friends from Katy Vocal Express, The Woodlands Show Chorus, The Houston Tidelanders, Space City Sound, and us, plus some incredible guest quartets. It was an unforgettable night of harmony that reminded us just how vibrant our local a cappella community is in Houston.

Then came the highlight of spring: Regional Contest Weekend! We are bursting with pride for our wonderful director, Janet Burnett, who was inducted into the Region 10 Hall of Fame! Janet's leadership, kindness, and willingness to tackle any task, no matter how big or small, is the heartbeat of our chorus, and we are so grateful to see her honored this way.



Our Rookies

HOUSTON HORIZON CHORUS



Houston Horizon Contest Ready

The magic continued on the competition stage, where we took home medals for Second Place in the AA Division and Second Place Overall! We also want to send a huge congratulations to Essence Quartet: we are so proud of y'all!

We didn't slow down for a second after contest! On April 26, we had the incredible honor of singing the National Anthem at the Houston Gamblers game. We had a wonderful time performing on the field and we spent the rest of the game cheering from the stands and enjoying the sunshine.



A Sweet Adeline can never have too much blush



Houston Horizon singing the National Anthem for a Houston Gamblers game

Now that the spring rush has settled, we are back on the risers and ready for whatever the rest of 2026 holds!

A CAPPELLA UNLIMITED CHORUS

Whew! The holiday season flew by with lots of singing opportunities!

We are so grateful for the support and community we have been able to build these many years. We enjoyed our rest after such a busy season and moved right into the next!

The new year gifted us five new members! Kelley Cato-Lead, Stephanie Cohen-Lead, Cynthia Crusier-Tenor, Rebecca Silverblatt-Lead, and Valerie Lopez-Baritone.



An incredible Youth chorus with Queen Caroline Durette (one with the crown) coaching at Winter Regional

sustained freezing temperatures the weekend of January 23rd, we decided to postpone until early March. When we finally got all these love bugs together in Kerrville, our coach Patrick McAlexander used his expertise and humor to help refine our contest pieces and our concentration. On February 28th, we had the pleasure of hosting the incomparable Patty Cobb-Baker at Camp Yanagisawa for a day of coaching and a select number of PVIs. Our favorite A Cappella Texas director, Jacob Bankston also graced us with his knowledge and provided PVIs. Jacob has been a



Coaching with Patty Cobb Baker, Jacob Bankston and a special appearance by Holly Janda

January brought us the Region 10 Winter Workshop led by Caitlin Castelino. It was an illuminating and breath-building weekend with priceless insights and incredible young women (ages 10 - 15) showing up and showing off.

With our annual retreat looming on the horizon, we were so giddy with excitement, but the weather had other plans! With

real asset having come to several rehearsals, lending a hand with extra coaching and guidance. Holly Janda made a surprise visit.

Speaking of Jacob and ATX, they were instrumental in putting together the 4th annual SpringSing at Saengerrunde Hall in Austin for a full day of barbershop, vocal jazz and classical by a variety of ensembles. It was an absolute blast and a chance for us to perform for an audience before our contest the very next weekend!!!

It finally came! The 63rd Annual Regional Contest: Reach for the Stars. A weekend filled with music, laughter and love. We



Au's first-timers (l-r) Madison Shortes, Kelley Cato, Melissa Harvey, Valerie Lopez, Rebecca Silverblatt, Cynthia Crusier, Stephanie Cohen



Madison & Patrick McAlexander collaborated at our annual retreat

A CAPPELLA UNLIMITED CHORUS

stunned in black and gold with our tunes “I Can’t Give You Anything But Love” and May I Never Love Again”. A Cappella Unlimited finished 2nd in Division A and 4th overall with 550 points...an inspiring accomplishment. Au quartet *Better Than BeFour* finished 4th..yes better than befour! We are so proud! And glowing. And ready for a nap!



Au performing at SpringSing



Au mugging for the camera at Regional Contest

We rounded out our Spring season with our new management team installation. We said goodbye to outgoing team coordinator Laura DeAngelo, who is moving to Chicago with her family

where she plans to find a new chorus in her region, and Kyong Hee Chee who served as an outstanding Membership Coordinator and wrangled six new members. The team will miss them their hard work and dedication. We welcomed our new management team Jocelyn Yanagisawa-Communications/Performance Coordinator, Kathy Pillmore-Team Coordinator, Meli Van Natta-Financial Coordinator, Cynthia Crusier-Marketing Coordinator and Stephanie Cohen-Membership Coordinator.



Au's own *Better Than BeFour* Quartet Kathy Wilson, Laura DeAngelo, Melonie Mills and Kadi Conklin

We also named our latest 24K Sweet Adeline recipient at the installation dinner.

Melonie Mills, lead section leader and wonder woman, was flabbergasted when she was named. It was a well deserved honor to someone who makes huge difference and an extraordinary effort to sing with Au.

After many changes Au, contending with all life has to offer, has proved to be a challenging, albeit exciting season. Stay tuned for even more from the gold standard in A Cappella!

submitted by
Cynthia Crusier
cynthiacrusier42@gmail.com



Au's 2026-2027 Management Team (l-r) Cynthia Crusier, Jocelyn Yanagisawa, Kathy Pillmore, Meli Van Natta, Stephanie Cohen, Madison Shortes



Melonie Mills, Au's 2026 24K Sweet Adeline

KATY VOCAL EXPRESS

On the Prairie with KVE!

Singing is exciting and fun when you have an incredible director like Katy Vocal Express has! KVE has learned so much from Steve Bayless and have enjoyed visits from the incomparable Vickie Dennis, AKA Steve's Mom, whom KVE is seriously considering making her our Musical Mascot!

KVE participated in a Saturday rehearsal to prepare for both National Barbershop Day on April 11 and Region 10 annual competition the following weekend. A chorus lunch together followed as fellowship with our singing sisters is an integral part of the fun of any chorus!



Lunch after Saturday rehearsal



KVE director Steve Bayless and mom Vickie Dennis



KVE is ready for Barbershop Night!



(front)Chris and Dianne, mother-daughter duo, with new Region 10 members



Vickie as MC for Barbershop Night

KATY VOCAL EXPRESS



KVE members at Friday dinner at contest

Barbershop Night was an energetic evening with so many wonderful quartets and choruses and Vickie MC-ing the event.

Region 10 competition was awe-inspiring and motivating. We had two new members sing on stage for the first time and several members who also sang with



KVE at Region 10 contest



Having fun at the mass sing



KVE dual members with Houston Horizon

Houston Horizon Chorus as dual members. Once you start singing Barbershop, you just can't stop!



Jan, Liz, and Zelma at the mass sing

Submitted by Adrienne Webster
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LONE STAR CHORUS

So Good, So Good, So Good: A Spring to Remember

Spring has arrived on a beautiful note for Lone Star Chorus, and our season is already filled with music, connection, and memorable moments.

We kicked things off with our Singing Valentines, beginning at Parkwood Retirement in Bedford. From the first note, the warmth in the room was undeniable. Residents welcomed us with open hearts—singing along, smiling brightly, and insisting we come back soon. It was the kind of audience every performer dreams of.

One especially meaningful valentine moment came when we surprised our beloved Lone Star Chorus Associate member, NancyJean. Expecting a small quartet, she was delighted to receive a full chorus serenade instead. Watching her smile



quartet, Precious Tones (April, Shana, Corinna, and Caryn), whose performance truly captivated every audience.

From there, we shifted gears into contest season, diving into preparation with energy and excitement. Our retreat coaching with the talented Northern Lights/Southern Charm duo, Lindsay and Connie, was both inspiring and fun—because making music with

and sing along reminded us just how powerful and personal music can be.

Our Valentine tour also brought us to Lewisville Estates and Presbyterian Village North, where we once again felt the joy of shared song. From timeless love songs to lively, interactive favorites like “Sweet Caroline”—so good, so good, so good!—the rooms were filled with laughter and participation. A special highlight was the debut of our newest



LONE STAR CHORUS

friends never feels like work. We proudly unveiled our new costumes (thank you, Charis!) at our Friends & Family dress rehearsal before heading into competition.

Contest proved to be the perfect crescendo to our efforts. We earned medals for 3rd place small chorus and 5th place overall, along with the honor of being invited to the Show of Champions. Opening the evening with “Thank You For Being a Friend” and closing with our spirited Kazoo Koncerto, we were thrilled to receive a standing ovation. Our heartfelt thanks to Region 10 for a fabulous conference and their kind words and continued support of our chorus.

As with any journey, there are both joyful and bittersweet notes. We share our deep gratitude to Bri Carroll, whose leadership over the past two years has helped shape and strengthen our chorus. While we will miss her, we wish her all the best as she takes on expanded responsibilities in her school’s music department. With that, we begin our search for a new director. For more information on the chorus and director position, please email directorsearchLSC@gmail.com.

Finally, we’re excited to introduce (and reintroduce!) our 2026 leadership team. Please join us in welcoming April, Bonnie, Charis, Caryn, and Rose with a big Texas howdy!

With full hearts and voices ready, we look ahead to a wonderful sing-out season. The best is yet to come!



TEXAS HARMONY CHORUS

Texas Harmony Chorus had a simply amazing experience in Houston at Regional Competition!

Many of us are brand new to Sweet Adelines and barbershop but not to performing. And there is nothing like performing for our friends and family in Region 10. We have to thank our coaches leading up to Houston, Lea Beverly along with Joe and Dawn Krones. They will also be with us as we prepare for Columbus. We are SO excited to be representing the region at International Competition in Columbus this Fall. We are working hard to consistently be the best version of Texas Harmony we can be. But have no doubts, while we do work hard, we find joy in our friendships, and flourish and thrive with the dedication and effort we are putting forth. We can't wait to see where this journey takes us.

Our Team Installation and Chorus Awards Banquet on April 27, 2026, was filled with amazing food, wonderful company, and nonstop fun at Spring Creek Barbecue in Bedford, TX! Thank you to all who made it happen and a special shoutout to Donna Saunders and Mary Lou Spencer for installing our new team. The laughter was loud, the energy was high, and the "V" power was STRONG! Here's to celebrating our journey and stepping boldly into the future together... Upward and Onward!



Our new Leadership Team: Karla Calloway - Director, Katie Snyder - Team Lead, Lynne Harris - Membership, Shannon Manthei - Communications, Laura Raitt - Finance, Maevette Allen - Events, Tonya Barnes - Marketing



2026 Texas Harmony Belle of Harmony - Lynn Poston accepts the award from 2025 winner Mary Shelton



Outgoing Team Leader - Lynn Poston, Director - Karla Calloway



Fun travels to and from Houston

TEXAS HARMONY CHORUS



Ready to perform



Celebrating the Audience Choice Award



Afterglow in Low Key's Room



Texas Harmony with coaches Joe and Dawn Krones before our Open Division Performance

Submitted by Susan Taggart
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THE WOODLANDS SHOW CHORUS

The Woodlands Show Chorus finds the magic

The Woodland's Show Chorus is finding the MAGIC of Music wrapped in our rehearsals, in the preparation of costumes/story/sets, in the raising of funds for support, in committing to "community," both around us and within our group.

The first weekend of March we had a great workshop on Friday night/Saturday providing an opportunity to hone vocal skills, do some spot check dueting and whole song drilling, all within a

well designed rotation schedule. Small groups were assigned blocks of time with coaches Patti Cobb Baker and Steve Bayless, while others continued to rehearse with director Kerri. It was a power-packed rotation and gave us a great jumpstart on the complete package! Afterwards, we went to dinner as a huge group and had an early BIRTHDAY celebration for our director, Kerri! Mexican Food and Cupcakes for everyone after all that hard



Pretty in Purple: Weekend Workshop with Patti Cobb Baker and Steve Bayless

work on a very busy weekend!

TWSC members work hard BUT also enjoy the extra stuff too! It seemed like March was the time for Monday night "dress up" with a theme! (The photos tell it ALL!)

March 2nd – Texas Independence Day! Red, White and Blue!

March 9th – since it was her ACTUAL Birth Day, Dress like Kerri Day

March 16 – Wearin' of the Green for St. Patrick's Day



Look Like Kerri Day... See the crazy glasses and Astros Shirts? And even a dachshund!

THE WOODLANDS SHOW CHORUS



Texas Independence Day - Patriotic for sure!

April 11 we shared a performance opportunity during a "Houston In Harmony" concert. It was celebrating Barbershop Harmony/Quartet Day. Several quartets and FIVE choruses performed! Many thanks to host Steve Bayless and John Wesley Methodist Church in Houston.

And MORE: We continue to enjoy our social evenings after rehearsal on the Third Monday. We finished up a survey submission fundraiser called HundredX. AND we continue to partner with PANDA EXPRESS...SO please mark your CALENDAR! We could use YOUR help on THURSDAY, May 21...must order on their app, with the code 9011610. This works for ANY Panda, Nationwide! PLEASE order on-line through the app and claim TWSC as the beneficiary! EVERY little bit counts! (Big plus: you don't need to cook dinner!)



Wearin' of the Green Day

At the April contest (that was interesting to go in APRIL, right?) our 2026 motto- MUSIC is MAGIC-brought us some great evaluation score sheets and some new inspiration to keep working on our performance package! This is probably a good place to say a HUGE thanks to the folks that purchased items from Showerhead Society booth and made donations for the 50/50 and the Rum cake raffle! Such generous ladies live among us! THANK you so much!

Officer Installation and Awards evening on April 27 brought many moments of happiness and surprise!

Highlight was Sweet Adeline of the Year Alice Haagen, awarded by last year recipient Biari Girvin.

Looking to the future, TWSC is planning to attend Summer Splash Region meeting to get coaching from Clinician Paula Davis! Paula has been panel chair for Region Ten contest many times so it will be like welcoming a good friend. Hope to see y'all there!

Let's stay busy, singing and ringing! Barbershop is FUN!

Submitted by Phyllis King, TWSC correspondent
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2026 Sweet Adeline of the year (right) Alice Haagen with Biari Girvin 2025 Recipient

ALAMO METRO CHORUS

AMC had a wonderful weekend!

Alamo Metro Chorus is absolutely overjoyed to be your 2026 Regional Champions!!! What a wonderful weekend spent in our new contest venue!

A huge “Thank you” to the RMT for their hard work getting it all put together.

And how about those AMC quartets? We could not be more proud of our three quartets, all of whom came home with medals! Obviously placed 5th, Hot Note placed 2nd and Essence brought home the gold once again!!!

We have so much to be thankful for and we can't wait to represent this great region in Seattle in 2027 I am going a little out of order, but had to put the most important info first!

Prior to competition, we had a two day coaching session with the incomparable Kim Vaughan on St. Patrick's weekend. She is so knowledgeable and really knows how to bring the best out of us, as well as impart some wisdom to our new Interim director.

In honor of National Quartet Day, we performed at the “Spring Sing” in Austin, TX, along with other barbershop groups and various singing ensembles. It was a fun show and a great opportunity to perform our contest package for a live audience!



And the winner is! AMC and the 1st Place Trophy



Coaching with Kim Vaughn

Lisa Deiser, TIWT Editor
lisadeiser@hotmail.com

ALAMO METRO CHORUS



AMC performs at Spring Sing, Saengerrunde Halle in Austin

We welcomed two new members to our AMC family; Chriselda Johnson (a former member who has returned to us) and Petra Pearce are fantastic additions to our lead section. Last but not least, we enjoyed a lovely Installation Dinner and Ceremony to install our new Management Team. It was a beautiful setting with delicious food, fellowship and of course, singing! We look forward to all the spectacular things to come this year!!!



Installation of the new Management Team. Left to right - Sandra Recker, Kay Hernandez, Deanna Smith, Adrienne Allie (on stick!), Ethel Lowther, Bonnie Garcia, Holly Janda, Carla Norvell.



Petra Pearce



Chriselda Johnson



Tune in with 10



UPCOMING DEADLINES

June 6, 2026

September 5, 2026

January 2, 2027

[Tune In With Ten Editor](#), Kathy Pillmore

[Team Coordinator](#), Bebe Caldwell - Regional Appointment - Term begins even years

[Communications Coordinator](#), Kathy Pillmore - Regional Appointment - Term begins even years

[Directors Coordinator](#), Mary Beth McMurray - Elected - Term being odd years

[Education Coordinator](#), Ethel Lowther - International Appointment - Term begins even years

[Events Coordinator](#), Euna Poole - Regional Appointment - Term begins odd years

[Finance Coordinator](#), Janet Moe, Regional Appointment - Term begins odd years

[Marketing Coordinator](#), Megan Rose - Regional Appointment - Term begins odd years

[Membership Coordinator](#), Carin Williamson - Elected - Term begins even years

Great Gulf Coast Region 10 is a member of Sweet Adelines International, encompassing chapters in portions of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Sweet Adelines International is a highly respected worldwide organization of singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, performance and competition. This independent, nonprofit music education association is one of the world's largest singing organizations!