

**SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
287TH (MIDYEAR) MEETING**

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

The International Board of Directors met on September 14-15, 2019, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Following is a summary of actions taken.

The charter and chapter membership for the following chapter was authorized:

- Katy Vocal Express Chapter, Region 10, Katy, Texas, USA

The Board reviewed a recommendation by the International Judge Specialists to revise the *Competition Handbook* to clarify use of spoken word during competition. The Judge Specialists felt that the intent of the rule was to discourage conversation/dialogue/monologue within a song that impedes, interrupts or distracts from the musical intent. The Judge Specialists also felt that as competitors become more creative, a minimum ten-point penalty might be more punitive than needed. The Board approved revisions to the *Competition Handbook*, effective immediately, to clarify the spoken word rule and the penalty point range:

Competition Handbook, Section III: Penalties, Rule Infraction Penalties, Performance Content (Note: ~~struck through~~ portions = deleted wording, underlined portions = new wording):

- (1) Eliminations Sessions: Competition performance (time on stage) is confined to singing. An occasional special sound effect (e.g., a cough, a sigh, a clap, a finger snap, a yell, etc.) or vocal exclamation/reaction is permissible, but ~~spoken material~~ non-singing conversations, dialogues, monologues or noise-making devices (e.g., bells, whistles, tambourines, drums, etc.) may not be included. In all sessions, the penalty ranges from a minimum of ~~ten~~ five to a maximum of ~~25~~ 50 points, depending on severity. Inclusion of spoken material (beyond a word or two) or noise-making devices during the competition song in an Open Division performance or during an Evaluation Only performance will result in disqualification.
- (2) Entertainment Package Sessions: ~~Spoken material~~ Non-singing conversations, dialogues, monologues and/or sound effects, as defined above, may be utilized in any of the noncompetition songs included in the entertainment package.

The Board reviewed the organization's current financial status, as well as progress on the short-term Strategic Action Plan and budget.

The Board reviewed the report of the annual independent audit by Hogan Taylor, CPAs. The auditor's report included that the financial statements "present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as of April 30, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

The Board was pleased to learn that four grants had been awarded by the Young Singers Foundation Advancement Committee for events that support the advancement of barbershop harmony for young women.

The Board approved the advancement of Marge Bailey to International Judging Program emerita status.

The Board approved the creation and sale of a new Approved Arranger jewelry pin.

The Board reviewed and approved the job description for a new Philanthropy Committee. The mandate of the committee is to work in concert with the director of philanthropy to generate philanthropic support for the identified priorities of Sweet Adelines International.

The Board reviewed reports of International committees and Headquarters departments.

The Board reviewed reports of the task forces currently serving the Organization, including progress on the development of the 75th anniversary book and history display (*a list of task forces with personnel and mandate is available on the website: **About** tab, **Our Board** dropdown – at the bottom of the page*):

- 75th Anniversary History Display Task Force
- Chorus Growth Incentive Program Task Force
- Diversity and Inclusivity Task Force
- History/Archival Task Force
- New Membership Options and Research Task Force
- Regional Governance Pilot Project Task Force