



From International President, Joan Boutilier

Hello Sweet Adelines,

I'm here today with a humble spirit to talk about a big mistake which was made in scheduling our 2022 International convention and competition. Specifically, it involved scheduling our international event during the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah. First and foremost, the International Board of Directors and I want to offer our sincerest apologies for this choice in scheduling, particularly to our Jewish Sweet Adelines and their families. We recognize the hurt you've experienced. We also acknowledge the effect this has had on many of the members of our organization, and we hope you accept our heartfelt apology.

As you are probably aware, this past year we've made a strong point of working to live up to our guiding principle of creating a culture of belonging — and that makes this mistake feel all the worse. Some of you have told us, "This has happened before and we were told that it would not happen again." I acknowledge this and hear the frustration and pain you have expressed. We have added new protocols and approvals to our process to prevent a mistake like this from happening again.

Thank you to the many Jewish members and allies who brought this mistake to our attention. Our headquarters staff is currently working with Phoenix officials and our vendors to move the dates of our 2022 convention so that it no longer conflicts with Rosh Hashanah. As soon as we have the details finalized and contracts signed, we will be back in touch with the new dates.

Again, I am so very sorry for the hurt this has caused our Jewish members. Your voices are important in Sweet Adelines. We never want you to feel like you have to make a choice between Sweet Adelines and High Holy Days.

We know that despite our best intentions mistakes may still occur in the future, but with your help, we will work to address them and prevent them from happening again. We are committed to this journey.

Stay Sweet Adelines Strong.