



**SWEET ADELINES
INTERNATIONAL**

PAULA DAVIS • *International President*

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SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL is a highly respected worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance.

September 9, 2016

Dear Sweet Adelines International Members,

On Tuesday, October 18, 2016, our International Convention and Competition in Las Vegas, Nevada will begin! Along with an exciting Regional Roll-Call with lots of fanfare, I will be giving the State of the Organization address at approximately 5:15 p.m. PDST.

During this address, I will be speaking about diversity and inclusion as we acknowledge our past and honor the 50th anniversary of the removal of the "color bar" that was part of our by-laws from 1958 to 1966, denying membership to women of color.

As a symbol of our commitment to the inclusion of all women who love to sing into our membership, we will be presenting a posthumous lifetime membership to Lana Clowes, a Canadian woman of color who was denied membership in 1962. Her daughter, Valerie, will be present to receive this membership.

This recognition not only acknowledges Lana, but also acknowledges all women who were affected by this period of upheaval and exclusion. To honor this important date in our history, we wish to re-dedicate our efforts to reach out and welcome all women who love to sing - regardless of age, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender expression, physical ability, socio-economic class, and creed.

Our motto, "Harmonize the World" has always been both an exciting and challenging one which compels us to commit ourselves to sharing our music and message with all people. In doing so, we offer beautiful examples of peace, unity, friendship and harmony that crosses all barriers and can truly offer a new hope and vision of life to our world. Always learning, always growing, together we acknowledge our past and move into our future with determination to make a difference.

We invite you to be present in person or by webcast to celebrate this significant event. The entire address will be on our webcast available through Sweet Adelines International. You can find further information on how to view the webcast at Sweetadelines.com by clicking on the News & Media tab. The diversity portion of the address will also be available on a YouTube link which can be shared on Facebook and by email.

In Harmony,

Paula Davis
President, Sweet Adelines International