

# International Board of Directors Nominees

This slate of four candidates has been nominated to fill two expiring terms on the International Board of Directors beginning May 1, 2009, and ending April 30, 2012. This information was written and submitted by each nominee. Elections must be held prior to the end of November, with ballots due at International headquarters by 3:00 p.m. CST, Wednesday, December 3, 2008. If you have any questions contact International headquarters at 800.992.7464, x139 or 918.622.1444, x139.

## **Patty Cobb Baker**

Harborlites, #21  
Vocal Coach  
25-year member



**Significant leadership roles as a Sweet Adeline:** International Board of Directors, Regional Leadership Coordinators, Education Coordinator (#21), Treasurer (#10), Chorus President (Harborlites)

**How do you feel you can contribute to Sweet Adelines International as a member of**

**the International Board of Directors?**

I bring several very important perspectives to the International Board of Directors. As a trained vocal coach and education administrator, I bring the perspective of the music educator/personal coach, and will work to ensure that the development of our members as singers and performers is always our number one priority. As a retired cost analyst/financial manager, I bring the perspective of the business woman, and understand that a well-managed and fiscally sound organization is paramount to achieving our education goals. As a 25-year member, I bring the perspective of the chorus and quartet member, always remembering the amazing benefits of our affiliation.

**What specific skills, ideas, talents, etc. would you bring to the International Board?**

In addition to my strong project management skills, I bring the vision of "everything is possible" that a leader needs to continually grow and advance an organization. I have experience leading organizations through intense change and have the energy, creativity and tenacity to produce the desired results. I am committed to excellence in every project I undertake. I am never afraid to chart a new direction, try a new idea or embrace a divergent plan. My work as a coach has taught me how to bring out the best in those with whom I work, whether individually or in groups. It has also taught me how to listen and respect the brilliance that is in all of us.

**What is your vision for the International organization?**

My vision for Sweet Adelines International is to see us continuing to improve our performance skills through the provision of premier musical training, broadening the educational opportunities and talent we bring to our members even more than we already have. I also see an organization that presents its exceptional musical product to the world in a professional, contemporary and savvy manner that appeals to a large and diverse female population, opening new membership markets. Always exploring new possibilities, I see us remaining true to our barbershop roots and craft.

**What should be the priorities for the International organization over the next five to 10 years?**

Continuing to develop a credible musical product across our entire organization must be our leading priority. This includes an emphasis on the basic principles of vocal production so that every singer can enjoy performing beautiful music. In addition, we must develop the marketing skills of our chapters so that our musical product is presented in a manner that can compete with the mass, global media of our age. Professional and strategic marketing at the chapter level is crucial to the development of performance and membership opportunities that can ensure a vibrant future for our organization.

**Describe what you think Sweet Adelines International will be like 25 years from now.**

Twenty-five years from today Sweet Adelines International will be THE organization for woman of all ages and cultures to join to fulfill their singing and performance dreams. Young women around the world will have the opportunity to learn the joys of singing barbershop harmony at a very young age in the majority of their schools. We will have developed effective new methods to market ourselves, and the world will know what it means to be harmonized! Forty-thousand members strong, the possibilities will remain endless for women who embrace the sisterhood of Sweet Adelines.

## **Kathy Carmody**

Velvet Hills, #8  
Professional Speaker, Vocal  
Coach, Teacher  
40-year member



**Significant leadership roles as a Sweet Adeline:** International President, International Secretary, International Treasurer, EDC Chair, International Membership Chair, IES Chair (2001, 2008), Certified International Faculty, Delphi Studies Coordinator (1995, 2007), Webcaster (2005, 2007, 2008)

**How do you feel you can contribute to Sweet Adelines International as a member of the International Board of Directors?**

My Sweet Adelines experience includes understanding, coaching and meeting the challenges of being a founding member of a fledgling chorus up through being a regional champion director. I have passion for the possibility of meeting the needs of our members in all chorus sizes and at all levels with the leadership of open, honest communication and vision that are critical to our future. My commitment is to keep the weekly rehearsal experience an opportunity for each member to share friendship, harmony, unity and the joy of singing and achieving together.

**What specific skills, ideas, talents, etc. would you bring to the International Board?**

My strengths are extensive both musically and administratively. I bring positive energy, creativity, global understanding, compassion, a sense of teamwork and fiscal responsibility to the board. Public relations, marketing and membership growth and retention issues are priorities. My mission is to empower people with the skills, attitudes and strategies they need to be more effective in their Sweet Adelines and personal lives.

**What is your vision for the International organization?**

I envision Sweet Adelines' future filling important needs for women of all ages and diversity. I believe through planning strategically we can expand our skills in effectively making positive changes in countless lives. Expansion of our use of cyberspace, appropriate and creative use of resources, and meeting the demands of today's women will ensure the success of our future. Our musical future is unstoppable.

**What should be the priorities for the International organization over the next five to 10 years?**

Membership retention and growth must be at the forefront of our Sweet Adelines lives. Continued and improved director education, people skills, public relations, marketing to wider audiences, and communication all increase our appeal to both our current and future members. All that, coupled with continuously emphasizing musical excellence, will keep us excitedly busy!

**Describe what you think Sweet Adelines International will be like 25 years from now.**

Well, I'd love to be around to see the largest, most successful and flourishing vocal music organization for women in the world ... because that's what we can be. At least fifty thousand women will thrive around the world singing the praises of how Sweet Adelines has made positive changes in their lives, and we won't even need to have membership drives. And, competition will truly be an education experience that just makes us all better.

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## **Fran Furtner**

Cincinnati Sound (#4)  
President & Advertising Consultant  
27-year member

**Significant leadership roles as a Sweet Adeline:** International Membership Committee, Regional Board Member (before RMTs), Regional Long-Range Planning Chair, Regional Public Relations Chair, Regional Young Women In Harmony Coordinator



**How do you feel you can contribute to Sweet Adelines International as a member of the International Board of Directors?**

**International as a member of the International Board of Directors?**

I have 30 years of marketing/advertising experience and connections with leading advertisers that might help us gain visibility and tie-ins (e.g., the Curves contest; Biore sponsorship of a YWIH Festival). I spent 25 years in a small chorus and now sing with a merged, large chorus on the journey to international competition so I know the advantages and challenges of both sides. As an Asian-American who grew up in Japan, I understand and value diversity, which will become increasingly important as we keep pace with changing demographics and continue to expand globally.

**What specific skills, ideas, talents, etc. would you bring to the International Board?**

I love our hobby and want to see barbershop break into the mainstream like ballroom dancing has in the past few years. With companies looking for innovative ways to reach women, and with the popularity of singing and real-people programs, the time is ripe for us. In addition to bringing marketing/advertising expertise, I'm current on new media and using digital technology for online learning, e-marketing, social networking, etc.

From president of my freshman class to president of my own firm, over the years I've developed considerable leadership experience. I'm accustomed to setting direction, taking responsibility, being a catalyst for growth and change, and motivating people. At the same time, I'm a team player and avid student — and grateful for the opportunities to learn from the many talented women in our organization.

**What is your vision for the International organization?**

Sweet Adelines International will be well-known, widely respected, and the indisputable "best choice" in singing organizations for women around the world.

**What should be the priorities for the International organization over the next five to 10 years?**

I believe the priorities should be enhancing member satisfaction, education, and marketing — and capitalizing on technology to accomplish these priorities. If we get those priorities right all the important elements will happen — membership growth and retention, expanding our vocal and performance skills, developing strong leaders, creating a culture of pride and passion, and maintaining a solid financial foundation.

**Describe what you think Sweet Adelines International will be like 25 years from now.**

Our own Web-based or cable show will provide a mass media outlet for our competitions, entertainment by choruses and quartets, and educational programs. Schools will embrace our craft, and we'll play a prominent role in bringing the joy of singing to young people. Our current chorus model of weekly in-person rehearsals among women living in geographic proximity will evolve. Although we'll always need to get together to sing and enjoy each other, the ability to hold virtual rehearsals/classes/meetings and create online communities will offer greater flexibility and opportunities for our members.

## **Harriette Walters**

Greater Nassau (#15)  
Regional Service Manager  
30-year member

**Significant leadership roles as a Sweet Adeline:** International Board Member, Director Education Coordinators Moderator, Master Director (Greater Nassau), Certified International Faculty, Education Coordinator (#15)



**How do you feel you can contribute to Sweet Adelines International as a member of the International Board of Directors?**

**International as a member of the International Board of Directors?**

My contributions to the Sweet Adelines International Board of Directors would include exceptional and creative vision, with the ability to instill and perpetuate the core values of the organization. This, along with strong team building and effective collaboration, could generate excitement and a positive energy transfer for the possibilities of what can be in our organization, of any scope, be it large or small. This would enhance the already strong alignment of the Board of Directors, creating a more powerful momentum to initiate and bring to fruition any pertinent or feasible project or endeavor.

**What specific skills, ideas, talents, etc. would you bring to the International Board?**

My strengths include passion, ability to inspire, leadership, authenticity, humility, flexibility, positive demeanor, consistency, and a strong sense of humor. With these attributes, I will successfully manage projects through appropriate goal setting, team building, collaborating, and delegating until their completion, and have fun doing it!

**What is your vision for the International organization?**

My vision would include but is not limited to creating the environment globally for each member to have the opportunity for personal growth along with fulfilling individual and ensemble musical experiences. Additionally, to foster extraordinary interpersonal relationships, sense of family and community and freedom of creative expression to provide opportunities for and cultivate diversity in an inclusive culture would also be paramount. To accomplish these endeavors, we must be able to inspire all leaders in our organization at every level ... one step at a time. By further developing the leaders in our organization, we are in the best position to not only create vision for the organization, but to make it reality!

**What should be the priorities for the International organization over the next five to 10 years?**

Our members are our strongest assets. To that end, membership growth and retention, cultural appeal for diversity to thrive, as well as musical growth and excellence should be the driving forces for our direction and energies.

**Describe what you think Sweet Adelines International will be like 25 years from now.**

I can visualize Sweet Adelines International to be a culturally diverse organization that continues to be recognized and highly respected worldwide. Our performances will continue to be defined by our barbershop style, as well as our uniqueness and originality, and we will be highly visible in the world of music. I believe that anything is possible for us, and I see the broadest exchange of knowledge, experience, growth and joy increasing with every passing year. As long as we are open to every possibility for our organization, we will be the best we can be! We must allow ourselves to evolve, and to be where we want and need to be as the future unfolds. The goals we accomplish along the way will be maintained and will lead us to future goals. The possibilities are endless ... it is as important to allow it to happen as it is to make it happen!