

# Convention Bulletin #1

January 2026



Assisting Chorus

Santa Monica • 2025 Region 11 Chorus Champions

**Region 11 Convention & Competition**

April 16-19, 2026 • Ridgecrest, CA

Kerr McGee Community Center • 100 W. California Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA

# Who to Contact

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# Important Dates

AET registration opens online: <a href="https://www.sairegion11.org/Convention2026">https://www.sairegion11.org/Convention2026</a>	February 1
Intent to Compete Registration due to International HQ: - QUARTET - CHORUS	February 16 February 17
Draw for Order of Appearance	February 23
Contest forms distributed to competitors	March 10
All regional contest forms due Last day to register for AETs	March 28
Competitor Briefing (on ZOOM)	Sunday, April 12 • 7:00p

# 8 New Things This Year

## 1. Inexpensive All-Events Tickets (AETs) for Non-Competitors

In order to encourage competitors to bring their family members to Ridgecrest to cheer them on, we have discontinued the Single-Events Ticket, and instead, created a new lower-cost AET. While competitors still pay the full AET price (already covered by our dues this year for R11 members), non-competitors will now be able to attend both contests for just \$45!!

## 2. Free Attendance for Prospective Members

Have guests in the membership “pipeline” who are considering auditioning for your chorus? Bring them with you to Convention so they can be immersed in the barbershop experience and fall in love with our artform – and you!

## 3. The Return of Sunday Brunch

If you were a Region 11 member back in 2019 and earlier, you’ll remember that we used to have a lovely Brunch together on Sunday morning of Convention weekend. It was a grand time of connecting with friends, honoring our Rose Ceremony recipients, watching the Year in Review video and recognizing individuals for outstanding service to Region 11.

Brunch is back!! We’ve contracted with a local restaurant to provide a hot breakfast for just **\$15/person!** So before you start your trek back home, join us for this event and celebrate the weekend with the best region in the SAL organization!

Menu: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, seasoned red potatoes, fruit, a variety of muffins (including GF) and juice. And there’s a Dutch Bros. right across the street from the Kerr McGee Center for those who want/need coffee, etc.

## 4. Competitors Singing for Evaluation Only

In the past, groups singing for Evaluation Only were required to go first in the contest. Starting this year, those Evaluation Only competitors will be mixed into the regular draw.

## 5. Chorus Photos Taken On Stage Again

After deviating from our on-stage photo routine last year, we are back to having official chorus contest photos taken on stage. Please remember to plan a pose in advance that you can get into quickly with everyone visible! (*Quartets will continue to have photos taken off stage after you compete.*)

## 6. Dinner and Afterglow

Once the Chorus Contest ends, go back to your hotel room and change into something comfortable. Then come back to the Kerr McGee Community Center! We’ll have several FOOD TRUCKS in the parking lot to fill your empty stomachs. Grab your favorite food and beverage, and join us for more music and fun!

## 7. New for Quartets – New Jubilee Award

The Winners’ Circle has created a brand new award for quartets age 55+ with a combined age of 240 or more at the date of our Quartet Contest (April 17, 2026). This new award is named in loving memory of 9-time Region 11 champion, Jeannie Vercillo.

## 8. Group Fundraisers for Region 11

We are arranging fundraisers with local restaurants – all proceeds will benefit Region 11 directly! See the first fundraising flyer for Habit Burger & Grill at the end of this bulletin.

# Schedule of Events

## SUNDAY, April 12 • 7:00pm PT – ON ZOOM!!!

Competition Briefing for:

- Chorus Directors
- Chorus Presidents/Team Coordinators
- Competing Quartets
- Traffic Pattern Guides
- Emcees for Quartet and Chorus Contests

*Link will be emailed the week before the event.*

## THURSDAY, April 16

Registration ..... 6:00p – 9:00p – Kerr McGee  
Winners' Circle Reception for:..... 7:00p – 9:30p – Kerr McGee

- Competing Quartets
- WC Members

## FRIDAY, April 17

Registration ..... 8:30a – 8:00p – Kerr McGee  
Chorus Mic Testing & Quartet Walk-Thru..... 10:00a – 11:30a – Kerr McGee  
Harmony Bazaar ..... 10:00a – 4:00p – Kerr McGee  
WC Rehearsal..... 11:30a – 12:30p – Kerr McGee  
Mass Sing ..... 2:30p – 3:30p – Freedom Park  
Quartet Contest\* ..... 4:00p – 9:00p-ish – Kerr McGee

## SATURDAY, April 18

Registration ..... 9:00a – 2:00p – Kerr McGee  
Chorus Rehearsals ..... 8:00a – 12:00n – Locations vary  
Harmony Bazaar ..... 11:00a – 9:00p – Kerr McGee  
Chorus Contest\* ..... 12:00p – 6:00p-ish – Kerr McGee  
Dinner / Afterglow / Awards ..... 1 hour after contest ends – Kerr McGee

## SUNDAY, April 19

Harmony Bazaar ..... 9:00a – 1:00p – Kerr McGee  
Sunday Brunch ..... 9:30a – 12:00n – Kerr McGee

*\*Times subject to change based on final number of contestants*

Since we no longer have a “headquarters hotel” for this convention and no official room block, everyone will need to book their own hotel room. Feel free to choose the accommodations that best meets your needs.

The list below was sent to Directors and Presidents/TCs last July, but in case you haven’t booked your room yet, here’s a list of main chain hotels and mid-priced places in the area. There are also other options for those who may be more adventurous!

Some choruses have already booked rooms, so don’t wait!

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### **Springhill Suites**

1.7 miles from Kerr McGee Community Center  
113 E. Sydnor Ave., Ridgecrest, CA  
760-446-1630

### **Hampton Inn**

1.7 miles from Kerr McGee Community Center  
104 E. Sydnor Ave., Ridgecrest, CA  
760-446-1968

### **Holiday Inn Express**

1.5 miles from Kerr McGee Community Center  
1010 N. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA  
760-608-8080

### **Red Roof Inn**

2 miles from Kerr McGee Community Center  
1050 N. Norma St. Building A, Ridgecrest, CA  
760-446-6543

### **Hometown Studios** *(owned by Red Roof Inn)*

2 miles from Kerr McGee Community Center  
1050 N. Norma St. Building B, Ridgecrest, CA  
760-446-6543

### **Best Western**

.3 miles from Kerr McGee Community Center  
400 S. China Lake Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA  
760-31-2300

# Misc. Information

## Event Registration\*

Convention registration/All-Event Tickets purchase opens on **February 1**, Individuals must complete their registration by **March 28**. All competing members and all Assisting Chorus members must have an AET.

Be sure you can log in to the Region 11 website and that all your profile information is complete and current before trying to register. Your AET/name badge is your ticket to all events. Your AET must be worn throughout the weekend.

AET (Region 11 members).....	\$0 (included with R11 dues)
AET (Non-R11 competitors).....	\$100
AET (Guests/visitors).....	\$45
AET (Non-R11 youth competitors 25 years and under) .....	\$50
Brunch .....	\$15

**Registration link:** <https://www.sairegion11.org/Convention2026>

## Judging Panel

Sound – Becky Maybury  
Music – Cydney Wentsel (Panel Chair)  
Expression – Annette Wallace  
Visual Communication – Donna Halley  
Panel Secretary – Cammi MacKinley

## Riser Configurations

All choruses will compete on the standard set of risers (7 sets with inverted center) on the flat ballroom floor. (Quartets will be performing on a small stage.)

## Printed Program vs. Digital Program

If you would like a PRINTED version of the Convention program, you must indicate that when you are registering for your AETs. Price is \$10. Digital programs will be available for those who prefer not to purchase a printed version. Printed programs will NOT be available onsite.

## Mic Testers

SoloVoce – 2025's 2nd Place Quartet from Region 21 – will be the official mic testers. The quartet includes Kim Alley, our Region 11 Team Coordinator singing tenor!

# Misc. Information

## Photography

- Choruses will pay \$5 per person based on the number of members estimated to be on stage when your Intent to Compete Form was submitted to International. Choruses may either collect \$5 from every member or pay for it from their chorus treasury. Please plan ahead for ONE or TWO poses only.
- Quartets will pay \$20. Please plan ahead for TWO or THREE poses only.

Choruses and quartets have the option to opt out. However, SAI requires that all competitors have an official photo taken. This includes those competing for Evaluation or in the Open Division.

Within 2-3 weeks, you'll receive high-resolution, retouched files of all your poses! You can distribute them to your members and upload them to social media! And members can take a file to a place near them to have it printed, if desired.

*A reminder that NO photographs or videos are allowed from any audience member during the competition, unless authorized by Sweet Adelines International.*

## Mic Testing Chorus

Anyone who would like to be part of the Mic Testing chorus on Friday morning should arrive for warmups at the Kerr McGee Center at 9:30a. The two songs that will be used are "Let's Sing Again" and "How We Sang Today."

## Withdrawals from Contest

If a chorus or quartet has to withdraw, a written withdrawal notice must be received by International Headquarters. This notification must come by email – a phone call is not sufficient. Should you need to withdraw on competition weekend, please notify Competition Coordinator Tina Rowley ASAP at 818-723-5570.

## Competition Recordings

Within 24-48 hours after contest, the contact person for competing quartets and choruses will be emailed a login to download their video competition recording. Recordings may be shared on social media anytime after SAI publishes the official results, which is usually the Monday following the competition. There is no charge for these recordings.

# Save the Date!



*Region 11*

**ZOOM Competitor Briefing**  
**Sunday, April 12 • 7:00pm PT**

***Attendees Requested:***

Competing Quartet Members  
Competing Chorus Directors  
Competing Chorus Presidents/Team Leaders  
Contest Emcees  
Traffic Pattern Guides

***Please put this important date on your calendar now.  
Zoom link will be provided the week of the event.***



# FEEL-GOOD FOOD FOR A CAUSE.



**JOIN HABIT BURGER & GRILL IN SUPPORT OF**



**Thursday, April 16 - Saturday, April 18, 2026  
12-8PM**

Enter code **GIVEBACK** when placing your order at the  
in-restaurant kiosk, the Habit Burger & Grill Mobile app, or [habitburger.com](http://habitburger.com).

Or, simply present this printed flyer or show this offer on your smart phone to the  
cashier upon ordering. Habit Burger & Grill will donate  
**20% OF NET SALES** from this event to benefit your organization.



800 S. China Lake Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555



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\*For Habit Team Member only

Net sales do not include sales tax, gift card purchases, or tips. Orders placed on third party websites or apps are not eligible for this Fundraiser.