

## Sweet Adeline Terminology...What Does It All Mean?

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Many times, we experienced Sweet Adelines forget that our newer members don't know what we're referring to when we say something like, "The *afterglow* at contest is going to be a blast!" or, "The risers on stage will have *fanny rails*!"

We also have the many acronyms we use. We, of course, know what all these phrases mean and assume that everyone else does too. That's not the case, of course, and the RMT in Region 4 was recently asked if it couldn't offer an article or column in the regional newsletter explaining the meaning behind a few of our most frequently used terms and acronyms.

Here are just some of them:

- SAI – Sweet Adelines International
- CC – Competition Coordinator
- CRC – Chair of the Regional Convention
- EDC – Education Direction Committee
- IMAP – International Music Arrangers Program
- PIPs – Past International Presidents
- YSF – Young Singers Foundation
- YWIH – Young Women In Harmony
- RMT – Regional Management Team
- COC – Communications Coordinator
- DC – Directors' Coordinator
- ED – Education Coordinator
- EVC – Events Coordinator
- FC – Finance Coordinator
- MKC – Marketing Coordinator
- MEC – Membership Coordinator
- RTC – Regional Team Coordinator
  
- *Afterglow* – cast party after a show or competition
  
- *All-in one* – undergarment worn under costumes
  
- *Break-a-leg* – said to wish someone well in a performance
  
- *Chorus Position* – downstage foot slightly in front of other foot, facing the director
  
- *Coning* – the art of adjusting to maintain the proper balance of a barbershop chord

- *Coronet Club* – association of members of all past International Quartet Champions (Queens)
- *Diphthong* – two vowel sounds sung on one note
- *Downstage* – toward the front of the stage
- *Dynamic Contrast* – planned volume changes to enhance performance of song
- *Fanny Rails* – rails attached to top row of risers
- *Hang Ten on the Risers* – standing forward to the front edge of the riser step
- *Inside Smile* – lifting of the soft palate
- *Off the Paper* – being able to sing your part without referring to the sheet music
- *Overtone* – unsung tone heard above the highest tone of a properly balanced and matched chord
- *Patter* – harmony parts singing different words while lead sings melody
- *Pickups* – beginnings of phrases sung by only one voice or one part
- *Physical Warmups* – warming up the body to provide suitable environment for the singing mechanism to operate
- *Quartet Etiquette* – displaying courtesy by not singing along with a foursome that is singing unless you are asked to join in
- *Ringing Chord* – when a barbershop chord is balanced, overtones are produced resulting in an exciting “ringing” sound
- *Ripple* – choreographed move that starts at one side of the chorus and travels to the other side
- *Stage Left* – the performer’s left, when on stage facing the audience
- *Stage Right* – the performer’s right, when on stage facing the audience
- *Tag* – the section at the end of the song that has been added by the arranger to give a sense of completeness
- *Traffic Pattern* – designated and carefully timed path followed by choruses and quartets on competition day(s)

- *Tuning* – refers to the ability to sing both “in key” and “on pitch”
- *Upstage* – toward the back of the stage
- *Vocal Warmups* – getting the voice ready to sing
- *Woodshedding* – the art of singing barbershop “by ear”, without a written musical arrangement.