



AREA 3 CONVENTION & CONTESTS

May 1-3, 2026

EAST SYRACUSE, NY



Area 3's Area Convention and Contest Team (ACCT)
and Host Chapter, Northern Blend,
welcomes you to

“Family Game Night!”

This 1st mailing provides chapters and associates with important information.
Please read fully for details:

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More details will follow in the 2nd mailing in early April.

Questions? Please email ACCT Chair Janine Schindler at acctchair@area3harmonyinc.org

HOTEL INFORMATION

AC&C 2026 Housing

There is one hotel this year. Reservations will be submitted as a chorus. Individual reservations will NOT be accepted; all rooms MUST be booked through our ACCT Facilities Coordinator, Dene Day, on the Housing Form. An electronic (typed) list of occupants for each room is required; be sure to indicate any special needs.

Due: **March 20, 2026**

Contest Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse
6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Room Rate: \$176 plus 17% tax (single/double/triple/quad)
All beds are double/double. Room Captain must provide the names of **ALL** members staying in the room at the time of registration. Credit cards are required at check-in and there is a 48-hour cancellation policy.

Check In/Out: Check-in – 4 pm, Check out – 11 am

Amenities: Parking on-site at the hotel is FREE. There is an on-site restaurant and excellent amenities such as an indoor swimming pool, fitness room, and complimentary high speed internet access. There are some retail and food services nearby as well.

Fair Share Assessment: The Area Council voted to enact the Fair Share Assessment (like IC&C). All Area 3, Harmony, Inc. members must stay at the AC&C contracted hotel. It will be important when you make your reservations that you include **ALL** members' names on your reservation. Those not staying at the contracted hotel will be assessed the equivalent of one night's stay, which is \$176 plus applicable taxes.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

AC&C 2026 Registration/All Events Pass (AEP)

Contest Site: DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse

All Harmony, Inc. members must purchase either a performing or non-performing AEP. **AEPs are transferable, but not refundable.** All choruses/associates must complete the registration form whether or not you are competing.

Registration Instructions: Registration forms must include:

- Members and guest names in alphabetical order
- Correct spelling (as names will be used for the AEP badges)
- Appropriate AEP price selected

Please complete and return an email copy of the registration form (as a Microsoft Word file) no later than **March 20, 2026**, to parliamentarian@area3harmony.org.

Please send your registration form and check made payable to Area 3 Harmony, Inc. to **Michelle Buckenmeyer, 59 Autumn Chapel Way, Rochester, NY 14624**, no later than **March 20, 2026**.

Receipt order of AEP/registration form determines the priority of MoonGlow seating.

AEP and Event Costs

- Full AEP for AC&C 2026 - **\$145**
- Non-Performing AEP - **\$120**
- Youth AEP - **\$122 (cost covered by Harmony, Inc.)**
- General Admission Contest Tickets - **\$20 each (available at the door)**
- Guest dinners - **\$52 each**

AEP prices include Judges Equalization Fee from Harmony, Inc. and include the Banquet and Moonglow

CONTEST INFORMATION

AC&C 2026 General Contest Information

It's time for all chorus and quartet contestants to submit Contest Entry Forms (CEF). Please complete either [HAR-061](#) (quartet) or [HAR-063](#) (chorus) found on the Harmony, Inc. website in the Members Only section.

Contestant CEF must be submitted no later than **March 2, 2026**, to be a part of the initial draw for the Order of Appearance for either the Quartet or Chorus Contest. If you miss this date, a late fee will be assessed, and you will sing first in the applicable contest. In order to compete, your late entry must be submitted no later than **April 1, 2026**.

Judging Panel

Panel Chair	Rachel McIntyre
Administrative Judge	Steve Temper
Musicality	Liz LeClair, Alex deBruin
Performance	Gene Spilker, Allen Otto
Singing	Ig Jakovac, Lynn Randall
Practice Panel	TBD

Chorus Info: We are hoping that we will be able to assign each chorus their own rehearsal room Saturday morning. Chorus Photos will be taken on the stage following the chorus' performance.

Quartet Info: Please note that the Quartet Contest time is tentative (Friday 1:00 pm). We may have to start earlier depending on the number of quartets that might be competing. We will not know this until all entry forms have been submitted. Please consider coming Thursday night if possible, so you can enjoy contest day without being rushed! There are no classrooms or warm-up areas, so you will need a space to get ready in.

Harmony Welcomes Mixed Quartets!

We're happy to again announce that Area 3 has opened its arms to include mixed quartets registered with the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association (MBHA) at our AC&C.

For details on how to register with MBHA visit www.mixedbarbershop.org. Once you are registered with MBHA and your dues are up to date, please complete the Quartet Contest Entry Form ([HAR-061](#)) by March 2, 2026. All contestants must purchase an All Events Pass.

If you have any questions regarding either the chorus or quartet contest, please contact ACJC Erin Cassidy at a3jc@harmonyinc.org.

CONTEST INFORMATION

NOTE: Due to trying to keep the cost of the AEP reasonable and the increasing cost to print a program, there will again be an electronic program this year and program ad information will be provided in the second mailing. A one-page contest performance order sheet will be available at the door for each contest.

Volunteers

We need lots of help over the weekend to put on a successful AC&C. Please consider volunteering for a job on contest weekend.

You do not need to login to sign up, just click the link and sign-up! Sign up Link: [Area 3 AC&C Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

CONTEST STAGE INFORMATION

For **choruses**, the risers will be six 6 ft, 4-step risers with back rails and will be placed on the floor of the ballroom. **Quartets** will be standing on the floor.

Please be aware that there will be NO CONTEST STAGE or stage curtain. Contestants will **enter stage left and exit stage right**. Each chorus package starts when the director signals the emcee for the introduction. Quartet packages begin when the emcee introduces each quartet.

Tentative Contest Weekend Schedule

(final schedule will be published at a later date)

DATE	TIME	SCHEDULE	ROOM/FACILITY
Thursday, April 30th	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
Friday, May 1st	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
	10:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
	10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	Area Quarus Rehearsal	Adams Basin
	11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Contestant Judges Briefing	Grand Ballroom
	11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Quartet on-stage viewing	Grand Ballroom
	1:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Quartet Contest: Area Quarus, Awards, 1 st place sings	Grand Ballroom
	6:30 PM – 11:15 PM	Evaluations	TBA
	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
Saturday, May 2nd	8:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
	8:00 AM – 8:50 AM	Chorus on-stage viewing (no singing)	Grand Ballroom
	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Area Chorus Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom
	9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Family Chorus Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom
	10:00 AM – Noon	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
	Noon – 3:00 PM	Chorus Contest; Family Chorus, Area Chorus, Awards, 1 st place sings	Grand Ballroom
	3:15 PM – 5:30 PM	Chorus Evaluations	TBA
	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Cocktails / Dinner	Grand Ballroom
	8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	MoonGlow	Grand Ballroom
Sunday, May 3rd	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Education / Craft Classes	TBA
	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hospitality	Champlain Room

AREA CHORUS/ QUARUS/FAMILY/ASSOCIATE CHORUS INFO

Area 3 Chorus

Richard Lewellen is leading our 2026 Area 3 Chorus in song at this year's AC&C, as the director from Bella Nova Chorus, our 2025 Area 3 first place Chorus. The song selected is "Come the Wild, Wild Weather," arranged by Steve Tramack.

The Area Chorus is made up of four singers from each chapter. If you are able to be in the Area 3 Chorus, PLEASE be certain to do your part by LEARNING the song. The rehearsal is Saturday morning at AC&C and the performance is Saturday afternoon after the last chorus competes. Remember that all Area 3 Associate members are also invited to sing in the Area 3 Chorus! Janine Schindler, Area 3 ACCT Chair will send each chorus and associate the music and trax.

Area 3 Quarus

Our Area 3 Quarus Director for 2026 is Anne Bureau, The Liberty Belles Director, and the song the Quarus will be singing is, "Let the River Run", arranged by Eric Ruthenberg. Sheet music and learning trax will be available to registered quartets. If one or more of your quartet mates are unable to participate in this year's Quarus, you still can! (It's not mandatory that all four of you are there.)

Once you decide that you can learn this song and will be with us for the Friday morning rehearsal and the Friday evening performance, please contact Debbie Durfey, Area 3 Quartet Promotions Coordinator at quartets@area3harmony.org for music and trax.

Area 3 Family Chorus

This is an invitation to all Area 3 singers who fall within the FAMILY category to please participate in our Family Chorus at AC&C 2026! We certainly don't want to miss anyone who is eligible to enjoy this experience and encourage all members who have a mother, mother-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, wife, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, cousin, associate member and/or affiliate male family member that sing in Area 3 – to please join us! It is a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. The director and song chosen will be announced shortly.

Please indicate your interest in participating by emailing Janine Schindler, Area 3 ACCT Chair at: acctchair@area3harmony.org, and she will send you the music and trax. The rehearsal will be Saturday morning with a performance after the chorus contest.

AC&C 2026 Host Chapter Northern Blend
presents



“Family Game Night”

Get ready to make your best move as Northern Blend Chorus welcomes you to Area 3 AC&C Family Game Night, where the fun is anything but SORRY! 😊 We're bringing out the classics: OPERATION (because laughter is contagious), BATTLESHIP (prepare to sink into the fun), MONOPOLY (where memories are the real wealth), DOMINOES (let the good times fall into place), CHESS (a checkmate for boredom), plus card games to keep the fun shuffling and the night fully stacked with smiles! 😊

You'll never be out of the game when you're surrounded by your amazing Harmony sisters. Expect a weekend that's a winning hand with singing, partying, laughter, connection and joy. Whether you're ready to strategize, harmonize, or roll the dice on a great time, this is one weekend you won't want to miss. 🎉

So, don't pass - deal yourself in and let the good times play on! ♣️♠️♥️♦️

BANQUET AND MOONGLOW

Northern Blend Chorus is also planning to offer personalized items for sale in our Hospitality Room. If all chorus and quartets would like to send us your logo, we'll plan to make things like personalized music binders and buttons to wear! Handmade items will be available for purchase as well as wine glasses etched with musical emblems, music themed jewelry and other fun items. Please feel free & reach out to our NBC ACC 2026 Chair, Dorene Dickerson via text at 315-786-0705 or email: vocalpointlead@yahoo.com with your level of interest or if you have any questions at all.

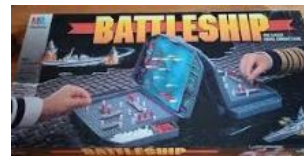
Northern Blend



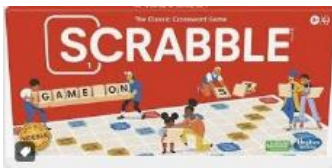
Reading A Cappella Voices



Rochester Rhapsody



Bella Nova Chorus



Crystal Chords



Harmony Falls



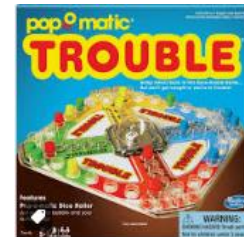
Harmony In Motion



Heart of Pennsylvania



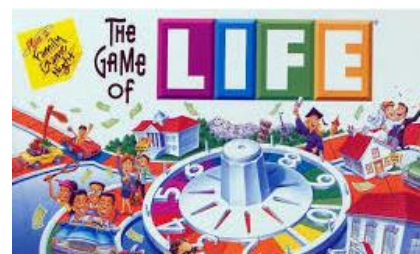
Judges



Niagara Frontier Chord Authority



The Liberty Belles



BANQUET AND MOONGLOW

Banquet and MoonGlow

- The Banquet will be buffet style
- The menu will be provided in the 2nd mailing

For the MoonGlow, other than the normal pre-determined awards being presented, only the following will be part of our Saturday evening annual Area 3 AC&C MoonGlow program:

- [ALL Choruses](#) -- will perform one song (unless an exemption is requested)
- [ALL Area 3 Current Quartet Medalists](#) -- will perform one song
- [ALL Area 3 Queen quartets](#) -- will perform one song (unless they do not wish to do so)
- [Judges](#) -- will perform one song (unless they elect not to do so)

COVID Protocols

There are no *requirements* for vaccine or masking. We will reinstate on an event-by-event basis, if the federal or state guidelines change for that location.

CHECKLIST

Due Dates:

- March 2: Contest Entry Form**
- March 20: Hotel Reservation Form**
- March 20: Registration Form**
- April 1: Late entry Contest Entry Form**
- Anytime: Volunteer Sign Up**
- Anytime: Request Area Chorus, Quarus & Family Chorus Music**

More details will follow in the 2nd mailing in early April. Questions? Please email ACCT Chair Janine Schindler at: acctchair@area3harmony.org.