



# HEART OF THE NORTHWEST AWARD NOMINEE



## **DEBRA AUNGST**

**CHORUS AFFILIATION(S):**  
Song of Seattle Chorus

**TOTAL YEARS A MEMBER:** 23 Years

**LIST CHORUS ACTIVITIES:**  
Chorus Administrative Director, Chorus Membership Director

**LIST REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:**  
Regional Education Coordinator 2013 – present; Education Team Chair, Faculty Support Team Chair, Summer Enrichment Training (SET) Chair 2014-2016, Regional Faculty 2013-Present.

**LIST INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**  
SAI Regional Leadership Committee 2015 - 2016; Membership Subtask Force 2015-2016; State of the Region Finance Task Force 2016.

### **COMMENTS ON NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS:**

Debra has a bachelor's degree in accounting, a Master's degree in business administration, and has done doctoral level work in educational administration. Debra worked for 33 years in education and was the Deputy Superintendent of a large suburban K-12 school district when she retired four years ago.

The Sweet Adeline organization has benefited greatly from Debra's over-the-top leadership skills, high energy, commitment and ability to draw others into the fold. Debra's heartfelt and positive approach to life and everything she gets involved in make her a highly effective leader and fun person to work with. Debra is currently the Administrative Director of Song of Seattle and she was the Membership Director during Song of Seattle's year leading up to becoming chartered. On the regional level, Debra was Region 13's Education Coordinator during its transition into becoming the largest region in the Sweet Adeline organization. She has actively sought ways to bring educational programs into the most remote areas of our region to meet their specific needs.

Debra has masterminded the last 3 (SET) events to which she gave countless hours of her time and energy to make that event everything it should be. When asked about her appointment as the Education Coordinator she said, "What an honor it is to serve the wonderful performing singers in our region. I can't wait to hear from members about their hopes, desires, and ideas for ways to best meet their educational needs".

And if all of the above is not enough, Debra can't fully express herself if she isn't also in a quartet. She loves to perform and compete, and is currently singing lead in Touchstone Quartet. She shares her love of singing (and her beautiful voice!) in many events in her community throughout the year with both her quartet and chorus. Debra is a shining star in our organization. Debra IS Sweet Adelines!

SUBMITTED BY: Sydney Thompson



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## SUE BECK

### **CHORUS AFFILIATION(S):**

Voices Northwest Chorus

**TOTAL YEARS A MEMBER:** 45 Years!

### **LIST CHORUS ACTIVITIES:**

President, Founder, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing Coordinator, Certified Director, Music Staff, Section Leader, Choreography Team and much more

### **LIST OF REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Secretary, Regent, Faculty, Options 2000 Task Force; Ovation Director, Education Chair

### **LIST INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

— Part of the International Faculty, International Board member, Membership Chair, Worldwide Liaison, Certified Showmanship Judge, Regional Governance Task Force, “CompuJudge” Task Force, Archive/History Task Force

### **COMMENTS ON NOMINEE’S QUALIFICATIONS:**

Sue Beck joined Sweet Adelines in 1972, with 45 years of SAI membership she has had the opportunity to share her many musical and personal talents with other members both at a regional and international level. Sue has held many positions in Region 13, she has sung as a member in Sound Cities and Lakeside Choruses. She founded and sang with Pacific Sound Chorus and would also go on to found and direct Voices Northwest Chorus, of which she is a member. Sue has also sung in three regional championship quartets.

Sue is a certified director, she has been on the regional faculty, has been an education chair, operated as the regional secretary and has also had the esteemed honor to direct Ovation. During her years of membership in Region 13, she has been a chorus president, secretary, treasurer, team leader, marketing coordinator, music team member, section leader and much more.

Sue continually shares her passion and knowledge for this craft through coaching of quartets and choruses. She challenges herself to become a better singer, performer and chorus member. She is often the first to volunteer when a role or responsibility needs to be filled. She is a mentor to new members and encourages everyone to learn, grow and gain the confidence needed to be a better singer. She is an ambassador for her chorus, region and the Sweet Adelines organization.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Voices Northwest Chorus



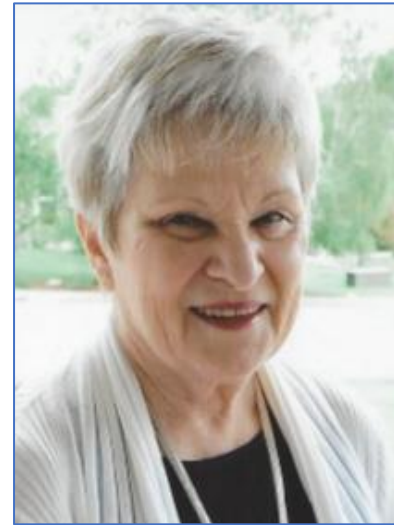
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## CANDY JOHNSON

### **CHORUS AFFILIATION(S):**

Five Valley Chorus, Dual Member Pride of Portland

**TOTAL YEARS A MEMBER:** 42 Years



### **LIST CHORUS ACTIVITIES:**

Assistant Director, Co-Director with Carole Erickson 1977-1982, Director 1983 to present, Master Director since 2006. Candy has sung in many quartets over the years including Regional Quartet Champions in 1982 and International semi-finalist in Fulltime Enjoyment and 1990 Regional Quartet Champions Mountain Music Company.

### **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

In Region 24 Director of Musical Activities (DMA) where she founded the Gold Country Chorus (a chorus of quartet champions), the first Regional Quartet Workshops, the first Director Workshops and orchestrated 10 Summer Music Schools (Gold Rush). Also in Region 24 she was Competition Coordinator for six years. Candy has coached many choruses and quartets through the years. In Region 13 she is Competition Coordinator and was on the faculty at Northwest Harmony College in 2016. She is currently mentoring a new director.

### **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Has served on the International Music Faculty, International Chorus Director's Committee and as a grant reader for Young Singers Foundation

### **COMMENTS ON NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS:**

To quote Cathy Conley's words in a 2001 article, Candy 'has never met a job she didn't like, and never met a challenge she wouldn't tackle. This bundle of energy has been directing Five Valley Chorus in Missoula, Montana since 1983 and their list of accomplishments under her helm is mind-boggling'. Some of Candy's accomplishment include: Regional chorus champions eight times including being the smallest chorus ever on the International stage in 1985 in Kansas City and being on stage in Calgary with 111 members in 2007. By invitation, the Five Valley Chorus performed at Carnegie Hall in 1990 and in 2000 the Buckeye Invitational, a Small Chorus Festival at State Fair in Columbus OH. They also appeared in an International video on directing and building a quality small chorus and in 2016 appeared at the International Choral Festival in Missoula MT. Candy has masterfully managed small and large numbers of dual members throughout the years bringing wonderful voices to her chorus, but also providing chorus members from other choruses in Montana, Idaho and Washington the opportunity to experience the International stage.

Candy is the heart and soul of Five Valley Chorus. She is a strong educator who finds methods to teach music theory and vocal production in ways that all chorus members can feel and understand. She works

tirelessly outside of chorus practice and gives her time and energy to all things Sweet Adelines – she is our greatest ambassador in the community and a support and sister in harmony to each and every chorus member. She is excited to meet the challenges of singing and competing in Region 13 and feeling that sisterhood with its members.

Oh yes, she also has a life outside of Sweet Adelines. She recently retired after 20 years as a grade school principal following 25 years of being a music teacher extraordinaire. Her retirement life includes playing piano for church every Sunday and directing the church choir, being the wedding organizer for church, teaching private piano, serving on the board for Missoula Aging Services, supervising student teachers for the University of Montana, mentoring two teachers at her previous school and teaching piano classes for Adult Education. Years ago she sang for a short two years with the Fleetwoods and has recently added to her non-barbershop performing experiences by singing with the Gary Gillette Big Band in Missoula! Candy is also a proud and active member of the University of Montana Alumni Band. On top of that, she spends as much time as possible with her energetic young grandsons!

***SUBMITTED BY:*** Cindy Morin and Marlene Lienau



# HEART OF THE NORTHWEST AWARD NOMINEE



## NANCY KURTH

### **CHORUS AFFILIATION(S):**

Northwest Harmony, Pride of Portland

**TOTAL YEARS A MEMBER:** 47 Years!

### **LIST CHORUS ACTIVITIES:**

Director, Northwest Harmony for 12 years; Assistant Director Pride of Portland Chorus. Nancy has been a member of choruses in Missouri, Colorado, Washington and Oregon. She has been a member of the music staff as well as serving 26 years as the Assistant, Associate or Co-director of choruses.

### **LIST REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Current Region 13 Team Coordinator; current Regional Faculty Member. Past: Director of Musical Activities, Director Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, and Education Coordinator.

### **COMMENTS ON NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS:**

Words that come to mind when describing Nancy Kurth are strong leadership skills, highly energetic, intelligent, compassionate, positive, knowledgeable and organized—and she exhibits a boundless sense of humor as evidenced by her constant beaming smile and hearty laugh. She is known as the “energizer bunny” and she is constantly seeking ways to encourage, educate and nurture singers of all ages as she welcomes them to the barbershop art form. Nancy is also actively involved in her own continuing education at regional and international levels as she strives to be the best singer, director, team member and leader she can be. Nancy is willing to share any and all knowledge and love of barbershop/Sweet Adelines with anyone lucky enough to meet her.

Nancy is the Director of Northwest Harmony Chorus. She is also an active member of the Pride of Portland Chorus where she is currently Associate Director and has chaired the Fundraising Committee, been Baritone Section Leader and danced in the front row. She is a member of Ovation, has been selected as Sweet Adeline of the Year in 4 choruses, and she received the Rose Achievement Award in Region 24. She has sung in multiple quartets, singing lead and baritone. Nancy has been a regional medalist 23 times and a regional quartet champion 4 times. She is never too busy to give to others by coaching, educating, and sharing her many talents.

Her dedication to the Young Women in Harmony and the Young Singers Foundation is commendable. She has led the way in unifying the choruses in Region 24 and now Region 13 by organizing the "In the Can" fundraiser. She helped organize the Young Women in Harmony promotion in the Pride of Portland Chorus and the Girl Scout event in Northwest Harmony Chorus.

Nancy and the members of Northwest Harmony Chorus welcome young girls and women of all ages in an annual “Holiday Chorus” which provides hours of community outreach performances during the holiday season. Young girls and women participate in the holiday chorus with no experience necessary – a great introduction to barbershop and the sisterhood of Sweet Adelines.

Nancy has contributed her heart and soul to our organization starting in 1969 when she joined Sweet Adelines. She is loved by many in our region, especially by her sisters in Song in the Pride of Portland Chorus. Nancy exemplifies “I Am Sweet Adelines” with every fiber of her being and truly deserves the Heart of the Northwest Award.

***SUBMITTED BY:*** Northwest Harmony Chorus Management Team



# HEART OF THE NORTHWEST AWARD NOMINEE



## CHARLENE O'CONNOR

**CHORUS AFFILIATION(S):**

Voices Northwest

**TOTAL YEARS A MEMBER:** 38 Years!

**LIST CHORUS ACTIVITIES:**

Director, Music Team, Management Team, Visual Team Leader, Marketing Team, Performance Team, Costume Committee, Show Committee and Choreographer.

**LIST REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Regional Faculty, Director Mentor Program, Education Committee and Ovation Team Leader, PEP Coordinator, Region 13 Faculty Program Support Team.

**COMMENTS ON NOMINEE'S QUALIFICATIONS:**

With 38 years of membership in SAI, Charlene has shared her natural talents as a Choreographer, Showmanship Expert, Education and Director with all of Region 13 and Region 24 (when it existed). She approaches each opportunity to educate, receive education, market and promote the Harmonize the World theme with enthusiasm, professionalism, positivity and grace.

Her regional experience on the Regional Faculty, Director Mentor Program, Education Committee and Ovation Team Leader proves her commitment to the Region. Charlene has attended AHA, IES, Director's Seminars and combined Directors and Judges Seminars for the Sweet Adeline International organization many times. She is also now a PEP Coordinator and a member of the Region 13 Faculty Program Support Team.

As Choreographer/Showmanship Leader for Lakeside Chorus, Pacific Sound Chorus and Voices Northwest Chorus she has achieved Top 5 International Chorus recognition and many praises. Charlene also was a Regional Quartet Champion in 1991, medalist in many other quartets and continually coaches quartets, choruses and does PVI's. In 2012 Charlene was presented the Novice Director Award after directing Voices Northwest for only 3.5 months. She achieved the status of Certified Director on December 21, 2015.

Charlene's vision is highly regarded by Voices Northwest Chorus members and many others as we continue to grow and strive for excellence.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Voices Northwest Chorus