



2016 Heart of the Northwest Award

[Sally Wallace, 2016 Recipient](#)

[Sue Beck](#)

[Arlene Kintz](#)

[Nancy Kurth](#)

[Charlene O'Connor](#)

Sally Wallace: 2016 Heart of the Northwest Nominee

Sally Wallace joined the Silver Valley Chorus in 1973, which means she has been a member of Sweet Adelines for 43 years! In 1975, Silver Valley lost their director and were down to only 11 members. A meeting was held to decide if they wanted to do a director search or just disband. Sally raised her hand and volunteered to learn how to direct, if they would support her as she learned. They agreed and she started learning. She directed Silver Valley Chorus for ten years until she and her husband moved to Coeur d'Alene.



In March, 1985, Sally founded the Coeur d'Alene Chorus. They chartered in July, 1986 and she directed the chorus for a total of 25 years; two of those years were as a co-director with Melodie Hays. At the present time, Sally serves as an "In-House Coach" for the chorus.

She was elected to the Region 13 Board of Directors in 1984 and served as Secretary for two years; Regent for two years; Director of Musical Activities for six years. In 2011, she was appointed as the Communications Coordinator for the Regional Management Team, and in 2012 was appointed as Team Coordinator. Her term expired on April 30, 2016.

Sally has served on a lot of committees, and has been--and continues to be--a member of the Region 13 faculty for many years.

In 1993 she chaired the International Education Event that was held in Tulsa, OK for Regents, DMAs and MDRs; from 1994-2000 she served on the International Board of Directors and also served on a number of International committees including Finance, By-Laws and Rules, and Editorial Review Board. Sally contributed to the "Members Count" Handbook, and compiled a manual called "On With The Show." She served on the Board of Trustees for the Young Singers Foundation, including two years as President and has been a Certified International Faculty Member for ten years.

Sally is gentle, yet firm. She is loving and supportive of every other Sweet Adeline Chorus and member. She shares her knowledge and experience willingly. If there is a touchy situation, Sally is the one to handle it. Her heart is full of Sweet Adelines, and specifically Region 13.

Sue Beck: 2016 Heart of the Northwest Nominee

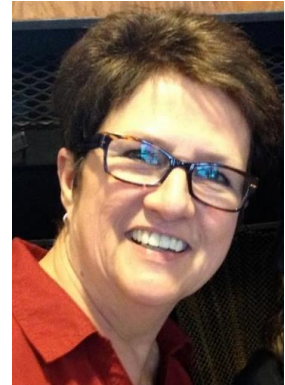
Voices Northwest is very pleased to nominate Sue Beck as a nominee for the Heart of the Northwest Award.

Sue Beck joined Sweet Adelines in 1972, and with 43 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 also went on to found and direct Voices Northwest Chorus, where she is still a member to this day. Sue has also sung in three regional championship quartets. She is a certified director, she has been on the regional faculty, she 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, Sue has been a chorus president, secretary, treasurer, team leader, marketing coordinator, music team member, section leader and more.

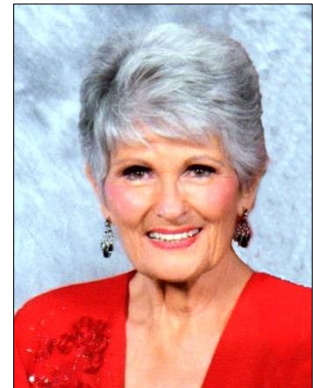
Sue's dedication to Sweet Adelines is also seen at an international level. She is a certified showmanship judge, an international board member, part of the international faculty, a membership chair and a worldwide liaison.

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.



Arlene Kintz: 2016 Heart of the Northwest Nominee

Arlene Kintz is an amazing baritone whose personality reflects her part: filling in and being there for her fellow members. She is a true teacher who knows what is needed to excel and has a sweet and tactful way of guiding chorus members in the right direction, leading by example. She role models what a Sweet Adeline should be by her selfless giving, positive attitude, never-ending kindness toward others, and her diplomacy as a peacemaker in any situation.



As fellow chorus members, we have time and time again gained the benefit of her tireless encouragement to be better singers with those technical and visual barbershop skills she has retained throughout all of her years as a Sweet Adeline.

Arlene has been a member of Sweet Adelines International for more than 50 years! Her life with barbershop music began in 1962 in Redding, California, with Region 12. She joined Prospective Shasta Wonderland Chorus (now Northern Gateway), then later moved to Sacramento, where she directed the Camellia City Chorus. But it was in the 1960s-70s that another light began to shine on this beautiful, talented lady; Arlene was the not-so-common component that we call "THE BARITONE" in four separate quartets, all of which competed at international contest. There was *Magic Touch* and *First Class*, then *Town & Country* and *Easy Street*, who both competed internationally three times, placing 14th, 7th and 7th respectively!

In 2004, when Five Valley became a dual-member chorus and was preparing for the upcoming International Convention in Detroit in 2005, many of the former Kalispell Flathead Harmony members re-joined Sweet Adelines and became Five Valley members. Arlene had been with Flathead Harmony Chorus for a number of years and was one of those members who joined Five Valley. How to stay connected to their new chorus 120 miles away became quite the challenge; that's when Arlene's love of barbershop music and desire to help others enjoy it came into play. Arlene and her husband, Dick, live in Polson, which is 60 miles north of Missoula and 50 miles south of Kalispell. When Dick decided to join the Missoula men's chorus, Rocky Mountainaires (who met the same night as Five Valley Chorus), the couple began their twice weekly treks to Missoula on Tuesdays and to Kalispell on Thursdays. Together they've been driving those same 880 miles each month to help spread the harmony!

When they aren't making that journey between Missoula and Kalispell, Arlene is directing her church choir, playing hand bell in the hand bell choir, or singing in a mixed barbershop gospel quartet with Dick. Arlene says "every night is music," and it is beautiful music! This active couple focuses their lives on family and barbershop. Did we mention that Dick and Arlene have a combined family of 10 children and 50 grandchildren?

Nancy Kurth: 2016 Heart of the Northwest Nominee

List Chorus Activities: Director, Northwest Harmony for 11 years; Assistant Director, Pride of Portland Chorus. Nancy has been a member of choruses in Missouri, Colorado, and Oregon. She has been a member of the music staff as well as serving 25 years as the Assistant, Associate or Co-Director of choruses.

List Regional Activities: Director of Musical Activities, Current Director Coordinator. Past: Membership Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, and Education Coordinator. Incoming Team Coordinator.



Comments on Nominee's Qualifications: Words that come to mind when describing Nancy Kurth are high energy, intelligence, giving nature, constant beaming smile, and a hearty laugh. Nancy is known as the "energizer bunny;" someone who gives her energy while exhibiting caring ways, sings in pitch while racing about, shares knowledge, and looks good in pink. Clearly that is how Nancy would be described.

Nancy is the Director of Northwest Harmony Chorus. She is also an active member of the Pride of Portland Chorus where she has chaired the Fundraising Committee, been Baritone Section Leader and danced in the front row. She is a member of Gold County, has been selected as Sweet Adeline of the Year in four choruses, and she received the Rose Achievement Award in Region 24. She has sung in multiple quartets as lead and baritone. Nancy has been a regional medalist 22 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 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 chorus, Northwest Harmony, and by her other chorus sisters in Pride of Portland.

Charlene O'Connor: 2016 Heart of the Northwest Nominee

Voices Northwest Chorus is very pleased to nominate Charlene O'Connor as a nominee for the Heart of the Northwest Award.

With 37 years of membership in SAI, Charlene has shared her natural talents as a choreographer, showmanship expert, educator and director with all of Region 13 and Region 24 (when it existed). She approaches each opportunity to educate, learn, market, and promote the Harmonize the World motto with enthusiasm, professionalism, positivity, and grace.



Her regional experience on the Regional Faculty, Director Mentor Program, Education Team, and as Ovation Team Leader proves her commitment to the region. Charlene has attended many AHAs, IESes, Directors' Seminars, and combined Directors and Judges Seminars for the Sweet Adeline International organization.

As Choreographer/Showmanship Leader for Lakeside Chorus, Pacific Sound Chorus and Voices Northwest, she has achieved Top 5 International Chorus recognition and many praises. Charlene also is a Regional Quartet Champion 1991, a medalist with many other quartets, and continually coaches quartets, choruses and many PVIs . In 2012, Charlene was presented the Novice Director Award after directing VNW for only 3.5 months.

Voices Northwest achieved 1st Place Division A Small Chorus in April, 2015 after VNW sat out in 2014 to educate many chorus members who had not seen a regional contest. Charlene's positive energy and talents have drawn former singers and new singers to join VNW. We were awarded the Starburst Award for the highest percentage of growth for a chorus during 2014 at last year's regional contest. Charlene's vision is highly regarded by VNW members and many others as we continue to grow and strive for excellence.

And on of December 21, 2015, Charlene was notified she has passed all skill areas for Certification and is recommended to be advanced to Certified Director.