

# N&NW

## North by Northwest Region 13

August 29, 2020

### DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

#### Nikki Blackmer

A classically trained soprano, Nikki Blackmer holds a master's degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Washington. After graduating, she joined the Portland Opera Young Artist Program. Nikki sings the lead vocal part with **Frenzy**, an a cappella women's quartet that won the 2017 Sweet Adelines International Quartet Championship, earning the title of Queens of Harmony. The quartet performs and teaches all over the world and has recorded a CD, *Diva Las Vegas*. Region 13's 2018 Championship Chorus, **A Cappella Joy**, has been under Nikki's directorship since 2003. Under her direction they've grown to over sixty members and have climbed from a C- chorus to an A- chorus.



Nikki is a full time private voice and piano teacher based in Kirkland, Washington. She is also a world-renowned a cappella ensemble coach, traveling all over the United States, Canada, England, Germany, New Zealand and Australia. She is frequently asked to lead youth a cappella events as well, as her energy is tireless!

Nikki is the director of **The Supertonic**s, a mixed a cappella ensemble representing Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses, the largest volunteer LGBT+ choral organization in the world. She was also recently named the new Assistant Conductor of the **Seattle Women's Chorus**. She is excited to be working with these nationally recognized choruses in their new musical venture.

Besides living and breathing all things a cappella, Nikki lives in Kirkland with chiweenie rescue dog, Lily.

Submitted by Patty Martin  
Region 13 Director Coordinator

#### Elizabeth Davies

Elizabeth Davies is the director of **Sound Harmony Chorus** (SAI) in Seattle, Washington, and the co-director, with Melanie McGuire, of the **Seattle SeaChordsmen** (BHS). She sang lead in the 2018 Region 13 champion quartet, **LiftOff**, and currently sings tenor in a mixed BHS quartet, **Impact**. When she is not singing or bossing other singers around, she enjoys writing articles about barbershop craft and history — including “How To Lead A Warmup When You Don't Know What You're Doing” for the BHS Harmonizer and “Toward a More Inclusive Sweet Adelines: Harmonizing the World in the 21st Century” for the Pitch Pipe. She has also served on the faculties of **Harmony College Northwest**, **Rocky Mountain Harmony College**, and **Harmony University** in Nashville, Tennessee.



Submitted by Patty Martin  
Region 13 Director Coordinator



As director of **Bridger Mountain Harmony Chorus**, Laurie shares her limitless energy. Her day job is teaching middle school math, science, and art at a rural school just outside of Bozeman, Montana. As an extracurricular activity, Laurie shares her love of all things musical and dramatic through her school's drama company - the **Little Red School House Players**. She has directed more than 25 musical productions such as *The Lion King*, *The Sound of Music*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Fiddler on the Roof* just to name a few. These yearly productions wow audiences, leaving them not believing the entire cast is made up of third through eighth grade students.

Laurie has three grown children and one grandson who is just starting kindergarten. He lives with her so she gets to enjoy his energy and enthusiasm daily. He loves his grandma and she loves him! When Laurie isn't busy with school, musical plays, or sweet ads, she likes to go camping with her husband Bob or occasionally read a book just for fun. This summer she tried her hand at gardening - so far she has a lot of green vines but not much produce (except tomatoes - lots of tomatoes). Hopefully before the snow flies in Montana, she and her family will get to enjoy some other fruits and vegetables from her garden and go on a few more great camping trips.

*Submitted by Patty Martin  
Region 13 Director Coordinator*

## Gayle Miller

**Gayle Miller**, Interim Director of **Fairbanks Sweet Adelines**, has been a member of the chorus for 40 years. She came to Fairbanks in 1964 and saw her first Sweet Adelines show in 1974. Having not sung for a while, she took voice lessons from Patti Gallagher who then convinced her to join the chorus. She joined in 1980.

Gayle became a tremendous asset to the chorus with her many skills and served in various capacities, as the Tenor Section Leader, Membership Coordinator, Vice President and Chapter President, and then as Assistant Director for Patti Gallagher.

In 1986, when our director, Patti Gallagher, resigned her position to go to Chicago, Gayle became a co-director of the chorus, and then took the full directorship in 1991. It was a huge challenge, but she was up for it, and took full advantage of many educational programs offered by the organization to expand her knowledge and improve her directing techniques. In addition, she attended International competitions regularly to keep up with the trends of the organization.



When Patti Gallagher returned to Fairbanks in 2001, Gayle saw an opportunity for the chorus to excel further from the impressive musical education and experience Patti obtained in Chicago. After 10 years as director, she graciously turned over the director's position back to Patti and took the position of Associate Director. She carried on in that capacity doing vocal warm-ups at weekly rehearsals to help members keep advancing in their musical and performing skills. She was always ready to take the Director's place if front of the chorus at rehearsals and performances. In addition, as part of the Music Team, she ordered and legalized music, assisted Section Leaders, and helped with learning tapes.

Gayle became Interim Director in 2016 when Patti had to resign due to a health issue. She continues to fill this role as the chorus searches for a new director.

*Submitted by Patty Martin  
Region 13 Director Coordinator*

## CHORUS HISTORY



Since chartering in 2007, **RiversEdge** has been very active in the Spokane area. Over the years, we have sung for Memorial Day Events at our Veterans Cemetery, performed at various fairs, corporate events and entertained at several retirement homes, in addition to competing every year. We are a very close-knit group of ladies who love singing together, and we also socialize whenever possible. **RiversEdge** is a mixed group of very experienced singers and new members just learning our craft, and we are proud to have two 53-year veterans

(Beth Garske and Hope Fulwiler) in our chorus who help guide us along the way.

**RiversEdge** has produced Christmas shows for several years, and we really enjoyed coming up with themes and scripts with sequels for the next year that kept our audiences coming back for more. During the COVID crisis, we have met every week on ZOOM so we can keep in touch and learn new music together. Our director, Bianca Dixon, researches new and different ways to keep us engaged, so the rehearsals are fun as well as educational.

To show you how much fun we have, the "stash" photo was because Bianca worked with us during her audition on placement using her finger above her lips as a mental reminder to sing above the mustache. We surprised her on her first night as our director by having mustaches on when she walked in. The look on her face was priceless, and set the tone for rehearsals from then on! Just like every other chorus, we are anxiously awaiting the time when we can once again be together in our rehearsal hall and sing some good old Barbershop!



Submitted by MaryAnn Milette

Chorus Publicity Coordinator

## DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BARBERSHOP VIDEO?

I'm sure you do, and I bet you would love to share it with others!

Please send a link to your favorite video for our **Facebook Watch Party** on **Sunday September 13th: 6:00 pm AKDT , 7:00 pm PDT and 8:00 pm MDT** to [communication@sairegion13.org](mailto:communication@sairegion13.org).



Be sure to add the party to your calendar so you don't miss out on all the fun!

Submitted by Sandy Smith  
Region 13 Communications Coordinator

## VIRTUAL VISUAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

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Virtual  
Visual Leadership  
Workshop 2020  
September 11-12, 2020

**CONNECTING CREATIVE MINDS!**

CALLING ALL LEADERS PASSIONATE ABOUT AUTHENTICITY AND MUSICALLY DRIVEN PERFORMANCE

Join **Erin Howden** and **Judy Pozsgay** for a jam-packed educational weekend  
Learn, recharge, share, connect and explore innovative performance improvement strategies to thrive during this time apart

For more information and to register visit [erinhowden.com](http://erinhowden.com)

We enthusiastically invite all Visual Leaders, Choreographers, Visual Team Members, Visual/Performance Coaches, Directors/Musical Leaders interested in visual authenticity, planning and performance, and ANYONE interested in learning more about leadership and performance. Attendees will participate in a content-rich curriculum led by 2 of the most experienced, award-winning and sought-after coaches and educators – Erin Howden and Judy Pozsgay. The interactive classes and connection activities are designed to inspire growth and offer ideas, education and support to participating leaders. The music hasn't stopped. The rehearsals haven't stopped. And WE will not stop moving forward!

The weekend workshop will be held virtually **Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, 2020**. All you need is the ability to connect to Zoom, bring your mind, heart and spirit and be ready for a weekend of **CONNECTING CREATIVE MINDS!**

<http://erinhowden.com/> to register or for more information.

*Submitted by Erin Howden & Judy Pozsgay*

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTING FACILITIES

This is an odd time to be thinking about planning new events and selecting facilities for those events ... but regional planning starts often 3 to 5 years prior to an event taking place.

If you were moving and looking for a new home, you probably would make lists to help you compare one home with another – “must haves,” “would likes,” and “bonus items.” In shopping for facilities for future Region 13 events, the process is somewhat similar to house shopping.

First, it's important to know what the core expectations are for an event. These are the “must haves”: type of event, dates, desired area of the region (many regional workshops rotate from state to state over time), budget, transportation needs, anticipated attendance, number of faculty, number of meeting rooms and breakout rooms needed, technical needs (projectors, screens, stages, sound system, etc.), lodging and restaurants (included or nearby).

After identifying the “must haves”, Region 13 can start looking for facilities to potentially be considered for an event by contacting visitor bureaus, chambers of commerce, and even event planners that work full time helping organizations, like us, find a great location for their next event. Like house shopping, it would be ideal to have several facility options to compare and select one or two to start negotiations. We might be comparing convention centers or school campuses with nearby lodging options or large hotels that could handle all of our needs. Each of these will have their own lists of what they want to charge, what is negotiable and what is not.

Before contracts are even considered, event planners have to keep a sharp eye focused on our members: what they would have to pay to go to an event, and what would make it worth giving

and food costs, AND 4) includes something to make it feel like a vacation with 100s of your singing buddies.

After all of the information has been gathered, compiled and studied, a recommendation is presented to the Events Coordinator and the rest of the members of the RMT for their approval. Once approved, a contract (or contracts) is prepared and reviewed before signing.

If you are one that likes shopping on a BIG scale, consider joining the new **Venue Acquisition Committee**.

For more information, contact [jhgalloway47@gmail.com](mailto:jhgalloway47@gmail.com).

*Submitted by Judy Galloway  
Region 13 Venue Acquisition Specialist*

## AREA SCHOOLS

**Hi** Region 13! **THANKS** to all of you who attended our 1st **AREA SCHOOL IdaGonSka**. It was a rousing success!! **FACULTY** was awesome, classes were great and our Host choruses did a terrific job!

If you attended please be sure to fill out an **evaluation** for us so we have your thoughts and suggestions. Here is the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Reg13IdaGonSkaAreaSchool>

### **NOW...**

Here is the info for our 2nd **AREA SCHOOL WAM<sup>2</sup> on Saturday, September 12, 2020**.

You are all invited to these new classes and the faculty is eager to continue with our education. The class schedule, class titles and faculty names are below. Spread the word and don't miss this chance to learn and enjoy this Virtual Zoom experience!!

#### **REGISTRATION LINK:**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluc--prTsuH9AqdJ8bOxyyjqLACtVH-OP>

**Registration is NOW OPEN!!**

**WAM<sup>2</sup> (Wonderful Acappella Music from Washington And Montana)  
September 12, 2020 – 9:00am – 5:00pm**

9:00 - 9:45	Open ZOOM/Get Acquainted - An opportunity to meet and greet
9:45 - 10:00	Get Acquainted Polls
10:00 - 10:45	"The Total Performance" - Nancy Kurth/Sue Beck
10:45 - 11:00	BREAK
11:00 - 11:45	"Let's Play Clue" - Sandy Cahill
12:00 - 12:30	LUNCH
12:30 - 1:15	"Hardware and Software" Part 1 - Paula Davis/Beth Smith
1:15 - 1:30	BREAK
1:30 - 2:15	"Hardware and Software" Part 2 - Paula Davis/Beth Smith
2:15 - 2:30	BREAK
2:30 - 3:00	Best of Barbershop Quartets
3:00 - 3:45	"The Art of Letting Go" - Charlene O'Connor
3:45 - 4:00	BREAK
4:00 - 5:00	Judges Panel Q and A, and wrap-up Final Song: <b>How We Sang Today</b>

All times are listed in **PACIFIC TIME ZONE** - plan accordingly

Watch for any updates and be sure the mark your calendars for this great day of learning and **FUN!!**

*Submitted by Jerrie Beyrodt  
Region 13 General Education Specialist - Area Schools*

# ScavenGER HUNT!

## AND THE WINNER IS...Bertha Kamstra, Spirit of Spokane Chorus

1. List two articles you can find on the *Members Only* Dashboard.  
**Announcements – Intune info – area schools – lots more**
2. To whom should *Chapter-at-Large* members mail their dues payments?  
**Cal dues to Sherry Morrison or by Paypal**
3. On which *Members Only* page can you find Education resources?  
**Documents - Education**
4. Who is the first member listed on the *Members* page and which chorus does she belong to?  
**Veona Ackerman from Coeur d'Alene Chorus**
5. What event is happening on January 31, 2021 and what is the location for the event?  
**Jan 31, 2021 is deadline for tag writing contest online & RMT meeting via zoom**

Thanks for playing and watch for the next Scavenger Hunt coming late September!

Submitted by Sandy Smith  
Region 13 Communications Coordinator

## PEP PROGRAM

### Preparing for an Exceptional Performance (PEP)

Region 13's PEP program is an opportunity for choruses to bring in talented Region 13 faculty to provide education in areas such as vocal production, showmanship, chorus operations, membership growth and retention, PVIs, music team training, marketing, show production and much more. Most of the Region's choruses take advantage of this program each year. Although we have had to adapt our program fit in this Covid-19 environment, the program is still available to all Regional choruses now... you can still take advantage of this free service!



Not surprisingly, we are not currently offering any in-person visits. However, we have many fine faculty that can visit your chorus virtually. There are many classes that could be taught during an online rehearsal. Or if you have interests in administrative support, one of our faculty who specializes in administrative topics can meet with your management team and/or leadership team to provide assistance. We can also do something along the lines of meeting (virtually) with your music team and or section leaders. There are many, many ways in which Regional Faculty stand ready to support choruses through the PEP program.

It's easy. Here is how you do it in two easy steps:

1. Download the PEP information and application packet from the Regional website at <https://sairegion13.org/>. Log into the **Members Only** portion of the website. Once there, click on the "Documents" section then click on the "Education" folder, then click on "PEP" to access the **Program Packet** (which is available in both PDF and Word formats). The first part of the document describes the program and gives you a list of ideas for topics during a PEP visit. The last page of the document is the application form.
2. Once you figure out what kind of Regional Faculty services you are looking for, complete the application and send it to Debra Aungst at [aungstd@gmail.com](mailto:aungstd@gmail.com) for processing.

Questions? Want to discuss an out-of-the box idea or option? Contact Debra Aungst at [aungstd@gmail.com](mailto:aungstd@gmail.com) or at 253.942.3841.

Submitted by Debra Aungst  
Region 13 Faculty Specialist Facilitator



The Region 13 Management Team is looking for women to fill a variety of jobs in our region. Some are "one and done" positions, others are short-term spots, and still others are for a two-year position.



**Featured Resource Staff Openings:**

**Convention Communications Chair**

**Assistant Webmaster**

**Social Media Administrator**

Please decide to get more involved in your region. If you're interested in any of the open positions, we'd like to hear from you! [sairegion13.org/JoinOurTeam](https://sairegion13.org/JoinOurTeam)

Take a few moments to read the detailed Job Description you are interested in and complete an application today! Both documents are found on the Member's Only [website](#).

*Submitted by Sandy Smith  
Region 13 Communications Coordinator*

## MEMBER INFO UPDATE REQUEST

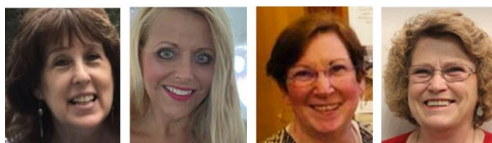
Please take a moment to login to the [R13 Members Only](#) webpage to update your member profile information.

If you have any login issues, please contact [Mindy Engelberg](#) or [Diana Jordan](#).

## RMT MEETINGS



Have you ever wondered what your RMT actually does? Members are welcome to visit monthly meetings which are held via Zoom. If you plan to attend, you will need to register **at least 3 days prior to the meeting**. All meetings begin at 6:00 pm Pacific time and last approximately one hour.



The next meeting is scheduled on **August 30, 2020**.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvc--qrT8uGtHFgoGpCJysSZs6GgPoz-on>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

*A request not made is an opportunity missed*

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