

real women.  
real harmony.  
real fun. 

# InTune

North Pacific Region 13  Sweet Adelines International



## What's Buzzing?

### Transition!

Many regions in our Sweet Adelines International organization are currently planning to welcome new sisters into their region in May 2013. Region 13 is very excited to have the following eight choruses join us from Region 24:

### Montana

A cappella Jubilee Xpress; Helena, MT  
Bridger Mountain Harmony; Bozeman, MT  
Five Valley; Missoula, MT

### Oregon

Cascade Harmony; Canby, OR  
Harmony of the Gorge; Hood River, OR  
Pride of Portland; Portland, OR

### Washington

Columbia River; Vancouver, WA  
Northwest Harmony; Vancouver, WA

**How are we going to do this?** As always, Region 13 is very proactive and has already begun forward motion. We currently have a Transition Team in place that represents both Regions 13 and 24. Members include:

Patty Martin, Chair, Olympia Chorus; Olympia, WA  
Beth Ann Bock, Region 24 – Northwest Harmony Chorus; Vancouver, WA  
Elizabeth Davis, A cappella Jubilee Xpress Chorus; Helena, MT  
Sally Wallace, Region 13 – Coeur d'Alene Chorus; Coeur d'Alene, ID

Each of these members will be appointing an assistant to help with research and other tasks.

*(continued page 2)*

## Cheap Flights to Denver!

Arlene Blackmer has arranged for a discount code for International Competition in Denver, for travel dates between Oct. 24 and Nov. 7. It can be used for any departure city (except in Hawaii) in the US or Canada! Please check with Alaska Air for guidelines, restrictions, etc.

Meeting Name: Sweet Adelines Convention  
Meeting Fare Code: ECMG845

SUMMER 2012  
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Now you can visit us on our Region 13 Fan page, even if you're not a member of Facebook.

Simply visit us at [facebook.com/Region13](https://www.facebook.com/Region13)—no sign-up required—and catch up on all the latest goings-on in North Pacific Region 13.

## Transition Buzz Continued

### What else has been done?

#### Region 13 Members Only Website

Region 13 added all the members of Region 24 who will be joining our region to the Members Only area of Region 13's website. It's easy to access the Region 13 Members Only site! Just go to our main Homepage at [sairegion13.org](http://sairegion13.org). Click on Members Only on the navigation bar, which will take you to the log-in screen. You'll need to know your SAI membership number—and your last name! Detailed instructions and tips can also be found on the log-in page in case you have problems.

#### New Regional Management Team

Plans are in place for members to apply for 2013 open RMT positions listed below. Applicants will be members of both Region 13 and 24. Please consider applying for one of these positions:

Director Coordinator, Events Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, or Finance Coordinator. The candidates appointed will join the current Region 13 positions of Team Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator.

The blended Nominating Committee includes:

Nancy Connell - Pride of Portland - [ncconnell@comcast.net](mailto:ncconnell@comcast.net)  
 Jan Matthews - Alaska Sound Celebration - [jlm@alaska.net](mailto:jlm@alaska.net)  
 Janice McKenna - Pacific Sound - [janicemckenna@drizzle.com](mailto:janicemckenna@drizzle.com)  
 Von Roberts - Pride of Portland - [von.roberts@comcast.net](mailto:von.roberts@comcast.net)

#### Coming Soon

Results of a Region 13 and 24 Transition Planning Meeting

*Submitted by Patty Martin, Transition Team Chair*



2012-13 Annual Regional Assessments  
**Attention all chorus finance coordinators/treasurers!**  
 Regional assessment notices were mailed to you on May 22, 2012. Payment is due by August 1, 2012. These annual assessments are based on membership records at Sweet Adelines International as of April 30, 2012. Any changes in membership since that time will be reflected in the following year's billing. If you did not receive the statement for your chorus or have any questions, please contact Mary Neff, RMT Finance Coordinator, at [maryneff4@comcast.net](mailto:maryneff4@comcast.net) or by phone at (360) 455-8943.

During the month of June, Chapter-at-Large (CAL) assessment notices will be sent to individual members by Cris Conerty, CAL Coordinator. Watch for them in a new electronic format!

## TAG Program Continues Through 2012

TAG stands for "Together And Growing" and is an education program designed to strengthen and inspire choruses. Talented Region 13 faculty members are sent to chapters to provide education in areas such as vocal production, showmanship, chorus operations, membership growth and retention, PVIs, music team training, marketing, show production, and more. TAG runs every other year, partnering with Area Schools on the alternate year.

Chorus directors and presidents were sent letters last fall about requesting a TAG visit for their chorus, and 11 chapters have taken advantage of the program so far! If your chorus has not yet scheduled a visit, you still have time to request one. Visit the regional website at [sairegion13.org/tag.html](http://sairegion13.org/tag.html) for more information.



## Harmony College Approaches

July 20-22, 2012

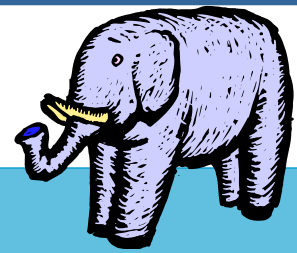
Come to one of the Pacific NW's best summer musical weekends! This co-ed educational weekend is chock full of classes, PVIs, tag singing, and plenty of good times. Sing while you meet old friends and while you make new ones, too! Check out our classes and faculty at [www.harmonycollege.org](http://www.harmonycollege.org). Whether you come to sing tags, have your quartet coached, or learn to be a better singer, you'll have a great weekend.

Faculty and coaches will include: Joe Cerutti, Marge Bailey, Joe Liles, Raymond Schwarzkopf, Doug Broersma, Nikki Blackmer, Dave Tautkis, Donya Metzger, Charlie Metzger, Anne Martiniuk, Rich Lapp, Lea Beverly, Kim Chadwick-McCormic, Tim McCormic, Teresa McCafferty, Beth Smith, Paul Olguin, Roger Mills, quartet members from Masterpiece, Quadrphonics ... and more!

Harmony College Northwest will include *Submitted by Valorie Osterman*

a Mixed Quartet Contest. You may either assemble a quartet and rehearse ahead of time, or try to recruit people at the event. The audience members will be the judges, and will vote for quartets based on their own criteria—quality singing, entertainment value, or anything else. Quartets must include both genders and will sing one song, preferably one that is broadly barbershop in nature. The top vote-getter will receive certificates (suitable for framing). Start preparing your quartet today!

Make sure to add Harmony College NW to your summer agenda—you won't want to miss any of the activities. Early registration closes on June 20th so register now and save some money. Special discounts for people under 25 let everyone share in the fun and the learning.



### New RMT Coordinators

I'm excited to be stepping into the position of Team Coordinator this year. The primary focus for the RMT will be to prepare for the changes our region will be experiencing next May 1, 2013 when 10 choruses from Montana and Oregon become part of Region 13. Five members of the Region 24 RMT will be meeting with us in June to begin the transition. As you know, change can be both exciting and challenging, and our spirit of caring, connectedness, and harmony will lead us through this transition.

*Sally Wallace*

Hello, Fabulous Region 13! I am SO excited to be starting my term as Education Coordinator. Great things are in the works for us, starting with SET coming this August. Mark your calendars for August 9-12 in Yakima, WA. Our weekend will start with an opening night reception, followed by a full Friday and Saturday of classes taught by our awesome Regional Faculty and Master 700 Director Dale Syverson! You simply MUST be there—to get a PVI, to spend time with your friends, to learn from the best, to take a class that will change your life!

*Nikki Blackmer*

## Director Needed!

Due to a recent retirement, Grand Olympics Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is recruiting for a Director to provide artistic and musical leadership for our chorus. Duties will include planning and directing weekly rehearsals and performances; educating chorus members in women's barbershop technique and vocal production; and preparing the chorus for shows and regional competitions. Participation in continuing education such as the Director Certification Program and/or other educational programs as determined by budgetary limits is required. Qualifications include but are not limited to a strong musical background with barbershop performance and/or directing experience preferred. Please send resume with cover letter outlining your reasons for applying. Send to: Grand Olympics Chorus, Attn. Director Search, P.O. Box 1853, Sequim, WA 98382. Deadline for submission is 6/15/12.

# Judges' Contest Observations

## Chorus Observations:

### Sound (Sandy Marron)

- Many wrong notes, which impacts harmony accuracy.
- Most groups need greater attention to interval accuracy, especially ascending intervals, and finer tuning is needed in chromatics.
- Pitch loss was a result of vocal tension, pushing for volume, and sloppy intervals. Many groups were choosing dynamic extremes that their vocal skills couldn't handle.
- All choruses exhibited stamina loss at the ¾ point in the uptune—and remember that the audience doesn't care that the performer is tired!
- Choruses need to get coaching on the right things, such as vocal skills and harmony accuracy, by the right coaches.

### Showmanship (Becki Hine)

- Great support for all competitors and that is nice to witness.
- Directors signaling for pitch while facing the audience feels weird.
- Directors should get coached while their choruses get coached.
- There seemed to be a lot of decoration on cakes that weren't all the way baked.

### Music (Marge Bailey)

- Our region is improving in accuracy, choice of material, and energy, but there's of course still room for improvement!
- Midsize choruses are doing well, but the smaller choruses still need attention to their vocal skills.
- Choruses need help with interpretive plan and dynamics.
- Individual help for directors and choruses needed.

### Expression (Marsha Fulton)

- Vocal Skills is a paramount element in the expression category and is the essential ingredient that is needed by each singer in order to handle the facets of the artistic plan.
- Every chorus got a comment on their score sheets about attention being needed in the technical elements (left -hand column of the judging criteria).

## Quartet Observations:

### Sound (Sandy Marron)

- Blend between voices needs greater attention.
- More vocal freedom needed – strive to eliminate jaw and tongue tension.
- Several quartets had wrong notes and incomplete chords.
- Finer tuning, interval accuracies, and internal sync all need attention.

### Showmanship (Becki Hine)

- Good grooming and good attention to detail.
- Creativity in many groups is high
- Seemed to be a lot of decoration on unbaked cakes .

### Music (Marge Bailey)

- Good choices of music
- Interpretation elements need attention—specifically dynamics and use of swipes and embellishments.
- Overwhelming level was C+ because of a lack of strong vocal skills.

### Expression (Marsha Fulton)

- Vocal Skills and all technical elements (on the left top column of score sheet) need more attention by all groups.
- It's a good idea to concentrate on vocal skills as you plan your year's goals
- Many groups attempting a heartfelt performance that is not successful for the audience when there are many mistakes in the musical performance.

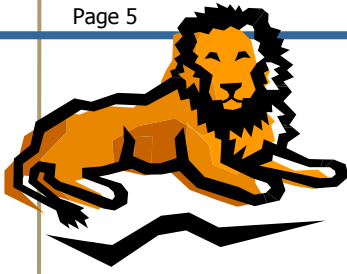
## Choruses!

If you would like to have an updated photograph of your chorus on the regional website, please send a digital copy to webmaster Sue Middleton at [suemiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:suemiddleton@gmail.com). She will see to it that the new picture gets online.



## Wanted: Educators

Do YOU want to be part of the regional faculty? If you're interested in being considered, please submit your resume and your preferred areas of coaching and/or your area of expertise to Nikki Blackmer, Education Coordinator, by August 1.



## Region 13 Chorus Chatter

### a cappella joy Chorus

“ajoy Escorts Wanted!”

Yes, I was the a cappella

joy member asking, recruiting, and working late into the night figuring out how a chorus with 49 members was going to host a competition with 23 quartets and 16 choruses—including ourselves for evaluation! The short answer: SPREADSHEETS!

We had the benefit of Susan Soderberg and Anne Fraser, both of whom brought immense knowledge and expertise to the hosting duties. And so many tremendous Chapter-at-Large members and non-competing chorus members stepped forward, along with our friends and families, to volunteer their time to escort and watch doors while ajoy was onstage. Thank you again!

This was my first time being part of a host chorus, and I took the job very seriously. Hence the spreadsheets detailing each job, each time interval, each door monitor’s task! While this was overwhelming at first, once in action we had so much joy providing all the quartets and choruses (we hope!) with a smooth, low-stress, organized, and ... relaxed? delivery through the pattern and onto the stage. We were all cheering for each of you, and I know I speak for everyone in ajoy in saying that we were proud to have served the region this year! (The spreadsheets

are available for a minimal cost... GRIN!)

*Submitted by Jen Sward*

### Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus

De-lee-shus. Okay, the spelling may not strictly be correct, but who cares when you see it on your score sheets?! Alaska Sound Celebration is still feeling decidedly delicious after a highly charged weekend in Spokane. We wanted to do well, that goes without saying. But we wanted to send Karen out in style. You all know the ending of this story, of course: a win for Backbeat on Friday night, and a first place for Alaska Sound Celebration on Saturday.

You may have noticed our reaction to the score of 647. That was the true icing on the cake. We have been working so hard to reach the A minus level. Lots of coaches say improving from B+ to A- is the hardest move of all. “Consistency is the key,” they kept saying. “You’ve got it in you, you will feel it when it comes, everything becomes easier and free.” When we took to the stage I think all of our emotions just poured out for you, our wonderful audience. Under our now single “D” Peggy we look forward to working to staying in A- land, and representing Region 13 in style in Hawaii.

*Submitted by Sheena Kaighin*

## Candid Competition Photos Available

ER Lilley Photography gave Region 13 all the candid photographs from our convention weekend! We have uploaded them to an online photo site, Fotki, where you can order your favorites at a VERY reasonable price: a 4x6 photo is 15 cents and an 8x10 is \$1.99. This is significantly less expensive than ordering from the photographer himself. Thank you, Ed Lilley!

Photographs are organized into albums. You’ll find an album for the Thursday Kickoff, Chorus Candids (sorry, quartetters, there are no quartet candid), Quartet Awards, Chorus Awards, and Festival of Champions.

To access the photographs, visit [fotki.com/region13](http://fotki.com/region13). A couple of things to note: you do NOT have to sign up for an account to view the photos, although you will have to register if you place an order. Also, a shipping/handling charge is applied (approx. \$2.50 per order), so you may want to coordinate your order with friends or even your whole chorus.

Any questions should be directed to Sue Middleton at [suemiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:suemiddleton@gmail.com).

## More Chorus Chatter ...

### Coeur d'Alene Chorus

What a sendoff Coeur d'Alene Chorus had for Competition 2012! We call it "Friends and Family" night. To a full house, we presented songs from our repertoire, but more importantly, we shared our gift, "the competition package." This dress rehearsal reminds those we love why we spend time away from them practicing. It is our gift of music wrapped up in costume, make-up, enthusiasm, and pizzazz!

We experienced double the pleasure at competition because, for the first time in our chorus history, we had two directors. Sally Wallace, who founded our chapter twenty-seven years ago, shared the stage with Melodie Hays. Melodie completed the Director Certification Program and received her certificate of completion the day before chorus competition. In her spare time she prepared regional chorus members and directed the Star Chorus. The love for directing must be catching! Three members of the music staff led us in different songs on "Friends and Family" night. Our team coordinator, Janelle Peck, is now filling out papers to enroll in the Certification Program and recently has become assistant director. We are a small chorus overflowing with talent, energy, and excitement for the coming year.

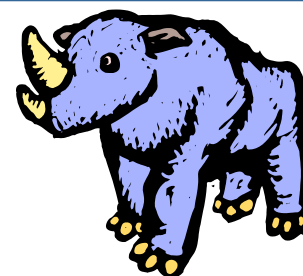
*Submitted by Julie Wright*

### Harmony Northwest Chorus

Returning from the 2012 Regional Contest, Harmony Northwest is all prepared to begin a new year. Our officer and board members installation theme this year was "Kentucky Derby." Wearing our "Southern belle" hats, the officers and chorus members paraded to the starting gate towards a successful run for the 2012-2013 year. While we didn't have mint juleps, we did enjoy the traditional derby specialty, Burgoo stew, and of course everyone received the roses.

The race is now on for obtaining new members, more performances, and meeting our friends at rehearsal each week. We want to give special recognition to three of our members who had perfect rehearsal attendance for the 2011-2012 year and two others who missed only one rehearsal.

*Submitted by Elsie Jussel*



### Jet Cities Chorus

SPIRITS SOAR HIGH AT JET CITIES!

Yes, spirits are soaring high at Jet Cities this year! We had a wonderful time introducing our ten new members to the Sweet Adeline world of competition in April. They did a fabulous job. We were happy with our Fourth Place finish and look forward to preparing for next year's contest.

Also at competition we debuted our new "Spirit Colors."



Each member created her own ensemble selecting from an assortment of berry colors and accenting

the look with vine green. When we all come together the overall effect is fresh and "berry" delicious!



We got a real boost to our spirits when we tied for 2nd place in the Arts category of the 2012 Best of Federal Way contest. This is a higher placement than we received last year and we were honored.

This is our 50th anniversary year and we are busy preparing for special celebrations. We are all so excited about this great milestone. We hope you can join us for:

Saturday, July 28: Our 50th Anniversary Picnic at Bradley Lake Park, Puyallup

*(continued page 7)*



## Chorus Chatter Continues!

Saturday, September 22:  
Our Spectacular 50th Anniversary Show at the Auburn Performing Arts Center (special guests: DeCapo Quartet)

For more information please visit our website: [www.jetcities.org](http://www.jetcities.org)

*Submitted by Mary Butschky*

### **OVATION! PRESENTS...**

A little history...

**Ovation!** is North Pacific Region 13's chorus of quartet champions. If you take a look at the region's website, you'll notice a link to quartets, then a dropdown menu where you can click Ovation to see how many of your friends and acquaintances are members of Ovation! (Some of these old photos may make you laugh, but believe me, we thought we were hot!) Before Pat Wright (Legacy, 1995) led the effort to re-establish a chorus of champions, there had been a fallow period where nothing existed. Before that, we had been known as the Clover Club; that's because before the regional boundaries were changed in the 1980s, the region was known as "Lucky Region 13" and we had a four-leaf clover as our logo.

What we've done lately is reorganize to form a new management team with new job descriptions and make lots of plans for the future! As the education team leader, I have the privilege (and fun) of helping design quartet education for "Lucky Region 13." We started with our first Q-Harmony (like "E-harmony" but not dating) on February 18<sup>th</sup> and had 35 in attendance. The team (Charlene O'Connor, Teresa McCafferty, Amy Rose, Sylvia

Posso, Susan Kegley, and Pat Wright) met right after that event to discuss what went well and what we want to improve for next time. Stay tuned for the next Q-Harmony!

Meanwhile, we're planning a quartet workshop for November 16-17, using Region 13 faculty including local judges (there are 6 of us in Ovation!) and coaches. Our tentative plans include:

- "Extreme Make-Over" for one or more quartets using our judges and coaches
- Classes designed specifically for quartets
- Quartet coaching
- Centralized Sea-Tac area location
- Singing, singing, singing!

Does this tickle your fancy? We think it will be fun, enlightening, and a great learning experience for all involved. Stay tuned for more information about this great event... we hope to see you and your quartet there!

*Submitted by Sue Beck*

### **Spirit of Spokane Chorus**

enjoyed hosting guests from January through April for our membership campaign. The chorus learned two new songs along with our guests. We were thrilled to welcome two inactive members back into the chorus who sang on stage with us at Regional competition. Two other potential members sang with us on Friends and Family night. We currently have six guests that we hope will continue to sing with us.

Preparing for competition this spring was a busy time with coaching by Tori (*continued page 8*)

## REGIONAL EVENTS

### 2012

#### JUNE 2012

**June 30: a cappella Overdrive:** a cappella joy and Northwest Sound join in a performance with guest quartets Frenzy and Kentucky Vocal Union.

#### JULY 2012

**July 1-8: BHS International Convention:** Men's International is in Portland this year! If you've never attended a Men's Convention, you should make the trip...you'll be glad you did.

**July 19: A Cappella Harmony Academy:** Invest in yourself and expand your potential by attending the new SAI A Cappella Harmony Academy in 2012. Discover your AHA moments in a variety of tracks ranging from vocal, leadership, performance, and so much more.

#### AUGUST 2012

**August 9-12: SET 2012:** Welcome Dale Syverson, Master Director, back to region 13!

**August 17-18: Quartet and Vocal Workshop:** Region 24's Workshop will feature none other than Touché—the SAI 2011 second place quartet—as the special faculty. You'll have an opportunity to be coached, get free PVIs, participate in a Novice Quartet Parade and watch a specialty show featuring Touché.

**September 14-15: Power Quartetting:** Participants will learn six challenging arrangements and spend the weekend singing them in different quartet combinations with singers from all over the Northwest.

**September 22: Jet Cities 50th Anniversary Show:** Jet Cities celebrates its 50th Anniversary with matinee and evening shows. Special guest performers are De Capo Quartet, 2011 harmony Sweepstakes International Champions.

[Click here to see more upcoming regional events!](#)

## One More Chorus Chat!



Postma, Ryan Heller, Dale Syver-son, and Melanie Wroe. And our hard working director, Mike Elliott, helped us retain and remember all we learned from them. We were pleased with our third place finish after all our hard work.

PEPPER, our awesome quartet, will be a wild card entry at International competition in Denver. We are so proud of them and will be cheering them on along with our other Region 13 quartets, Backbeat and Frenzy. Congratulations to LouAnn, Andrea, Tonya, and Carran.

Summer will bring some fund raising and social activities and, of course, new songs to learn at chorus.

*Submitted by Judy McMillian*

### STAR Chorus

Representing sixteen of Region 13's choruses, 50+ enthusiastic and energetic STAR Chorus members helped kick off the 2012 convention in Spokane on April 26. With a rousing "Here and Now" featuring a smaller ensemble and the chorus's theatrical contingent "SHE-nanigans," they got the party started! Their three-song package was well received and many audience members verbalized their intent to join STAR Chorus, which, indeed, is open to all Region 13 members. STAR then had the privilege of joining with members of the award-winning chorus, *a cappella*

*joy*, as the demonstration chorus for Lea Beverly's coaching class on Friday morning. It was a valuable opportunity for the guest coaches, the chorus, and STAR's new director, Melodie Hays. Exciting plans for SET include a STAR tea party, and singing "When I Take My Sugar to Tea" and our new song "Why We Sing." All interested Region 13 members can go to the [STAR Chorus webpage](#) to get updates and learn how to join.

*Submitted by Melodie Hays*

### Voices Northwest Chorus

Six years ago a couple of Snohomish County friends and I met to talk about the possibility of starting a chorus in our county, thus closing a sizable gap between King and Skagit counties where there was no SAI chorus. We held our collective breaths on our first rehearsal night (January 15, 2006) to see if *anyone* would show up. They did and thus began the short but successful journey of Voices Northwest.

After serving Voices NW as their first front line director (my first attempt), I came to a crossroads near the end of 2011 and made an important decision: I decided to retire from directing. This was a very difficult decision for me but with a new, more demanding job at Boeing, wanting to spend more time with my kids and grandkids, plus the time I believe necessary to put plans together for EVERY rehearsal, prepare, teach, cajole, entertain, and keep a positive and

uplifting attitude while remaining forever energetic—all this took a toll and it came time for me to step down.

My eternal thanks go to Anne Sutherland, Sharon Marquardt, Tami Kamp, and others who were there in the very beginning to get this ship launched. My biggest thrill in all of this is to have brought new folks in—folks that hadn't known the art form and are as thrilled with it as I have been in my 40 years of membership (so far). I am still a member of VNW and very proud to maintain my association with this fine group of women and performers.

Charlene O'Connor stepped in as interim director in January 2012 and wowed everyone in her first contest, winning the Novice Director Award this year in Spokane. The chorus has hired Charlene as its full-time, front line director and they could not have done better! It's SO great that VNW is in these experienced, excited, and caring hands.

Like a bad penny, I'll keep turning up at every Region 13 event I can manage and offer my services as faculty and coach when asked. Hopefully, you'll see me on stage for many years to come!

*Submitted by Sue Beck*



## REGIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM



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For questions or comments, please contact Kelly Hobson  
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The next issue will be distributed in May; **deadline is September 16, 2012.**  
Send articles to Grace Rawsthorne  
[g\\_rawsthorne@hotmail.com](mailto:g_rawsthorne@hotmail.com)

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Check us out on the web: [sairegion13.org](http://sairegion13.org)

## Rockin' the Open Houses

Thirteen choruses in North Pacific Region 13 joined hands with Sweet Adeline choruses across the globe in January to participate in the SAI World-Wide Open House. Congratulations to the following chapters for making the open house a success!

Alaska Sound Celebration a cappella joy  
Blue Mountain Coeur D'Alene Jet Cities  
Harmony Northwest Kitsap Pines Olympia  
Pacific Sound RiversEdge Rolling Hills  
Seattle Shores Spirit of Spokane

Response from the marketing campaign was quite good, with several chapters reporting more than 10 visitors. Pacific Sound and Olympia chapters each had over 25 visitors during the month of January!

Even better, Region 13 gained **32 brand**

**new members** in the first quarter of 2012. These are women who have never been in Sweet Adelines before. Several chapters reported that former members came to visit and decided to rejoin. We are all thrilled for so many new and returning faces and voices on our risers. We would like to recognize 3 chapters who enrolled the most new members between January 1 and March 31.

Pacific Sound: 6  
Jet Cites: 5  
Olympia: 5



Thanks to each member who participated in our open houses, who welcomed and encouraged visitors; and congratulations to our newest members. Region 13 rocks!

*Submitted by Pat Breen, Membership Coordinator*

## Backbeat's Flyin' High to the Mile High!

Wow! What a ride! Backbeat is thrilled beyond belief to be your Region 13 Quartet Champions. Our quest started 11 years ago when 4 friends got together to sing. Since then, we have had the privilege to entertain the region and beyond many, many times. We went to IES in NC, Queens College in Portland, and the Buckeye Invitational (Columbus, OH) and had a blast at all of them. Now we will be having a blast in Denver with Pepper, Frenzy, and a cappella joy!

Our original dream in 2001 was to be good enough to sing on the Saturday night Show of Champions. When that was accomplished, we set our sights to singing on the international stage. Coming in second three times gave us hope that it was actually possible. For those who don't know, this was to be our last contest as Carol (lead) is moving to NJ and Karen (bass) to WI. When Kathy (tenor) couldn't come to contest this year, we thought we would be spectators. Thanks to Nikki Blackmer's suggestion at the January RMT meeting, in walks Katy Hawley (Marketing Coordinator), willing to tackle the challenge of being a "rent-a-tenor" for the weekend so the region could enjoy Backbeat songs one last time. (Huge thanks to Katy for learning how to be a tenor at a breakneck speed.) So with this being our last contest together, winning wasn't our only goal. Our #1 goal was to sing for our beloved Region 13 one more time, but apparently singing from the heart IS a winning performance.

Congratulations to all the competing quartets in the contest this year. It was a fabulous contest and we give a big shout out to Pepper. We can't wait to share the International experience with you. In case you're wondering, Kathy Laymon is available the last week of October and will be singing with us in Denver so the gang's back together. You can follow our journey to international contest by following us on Twitter @Backbeatquartet. We hope it lets everyone in on what the international experience is all about.

*Submitted by Backbeat Quartet, 2012 Region 13 Quartet Champions!*