

real women.  
real harmony.  
real fun.

# InTune

North by Northwest Region 13 Sweet Adelines International



## SET—Learn to Ignite the Stage

You won't want to miss this year's annual summer education event, *SET (Summer Enrichment Training)*. Our headline faculty is none other than *Frenzy Quartet*, masters at entertaining audiences!

We will be in Federal Way, WA on August 20-22. Make sure you register by July 31 to get better rates. All the registration, hotel, class schedule, and other information are available on the regional website, [here](#).



Events start Thursday afternoon with an evening kick-off reception with light hors d'oeuvres at the headquarters hotel, The Clarion. Classes start early Friday morning with some classes designed for our frontline directors and musical leaders. There are lots of other classes to fit everyone's interests. We will be using *Why We Sing* as the SET song. Music and learning tracks are available on the regional website, in the Members Only section under the music tab. All general sessions and break-out sessions on Friday and Saturday are with Frenzy.

Saturday evening starts with a fun Strut Your Stuff—Novice Quartet/VLQ Festival. Grab some friends and strut your stuff at SET on our Saturday night show. Here's an opportunity to dip your toes in the quartet water in a friendly, nurturing environment. Details are on the regional webpage [here](#). After a short intermission our fabulous show then continues featuring Frenzy and our own awesome Region 13 quartets.

In the meantime, first things first...get registered [online](#)! Specific registration questions can be sent to [Vivian Elia](#), SET registrar. Reserve your spot now for the education event of the year.

*Submitted by Debra Aungst, Education Coordinator*



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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 by Northwest Region 13.



## Breakfast with the Judges

Twenty-one Region 13 chorus directors had breakfast with our Regional Competition Judging Panel on Sunday morning following our Regional Competition weekend. This was a great opportunity for our front line directors to ask questions and gain insight into the inner workings of the judging world and their observations from this year's quartet and chorus competition. The judges, plus our own Region 13 judges Beth Smith and Susan Kegley, shared ideas, hints, concepts, and trends to help our choruses and quartets take that next big step in improvement.

In addition to the sharing of information and ideas, this gathering also provides a great networking opportunity for our region's directors. Whether your chorus competed or not; whether your chorus has 16 singers or 116 singers; whether you are in remote areas of Alaska or Montana or in metro Portland or Seattle—every director shares many of the same issues and challenges. Where better to gain additional approaches and strategies to work through these issues? It's fun to discover we're all working on the same things, just at different levels.

This morning breakfast event will continue with our 2016 Regional Competition as long as our Judging Panel agrees to delay their departure times and volunteer their time and talents to share with us. We are very grateful for their willingness to be so gracious with their time and talent.

*Submitted by Nancy Kurth*

## Scholarship Application Timeline

**Reminder: Scholarship application deadlines are May 15 and November 15 every year.**

Are you interested in financial assistance with your registration to an upcoming educational event? What about some financial help covering the cost of SAI educational materials or tools? Just submit an application outlining your request. You don't need to wait until the application deadline. You can submit your application at any time. All applications received by November 15 will be considered in this next round. Scholarships will be awarded soon thereafter. If you miss this window, there is another round for consideration next spring.

**How to get an application:** Just log into the Members Only site on the Regional [website](#). From there go to the "Documents" tab and select the "Forms, Downloads and Miscellaneous Information" box. Then click on the "Education Scholarship Information and Application" link to access the application form. All the submission directions are included on the form.

Please submit your application to Debra Aungst, Education Coordinator no later than November 15. You can send it by email or by snail mail.



## Contest 2015—Judges' Comments

Each year contest judges give us regional score sheets for all the chorus and quartet competitors as a whole. Of course these regional score sheets do not necessarily apply to an individual chorus or quartet. But they do help us as a region focus our education efforts for the coming year. Choruses and quartets may also want to use these regional score sheets in conjunction with their own individual score sheets. You can find a copy of these regional score sheets on the Members Only site.

### Summary of comments—CHORUS competition:

#### Doing well:

- Vocal skills (always continue to strengthen or develop further)
  - \* lower scoring choruses: good basic foundation in vocal skills
  - \* higher scoring choruses: good vocal skills
- Music selection generally good, especially for higher scoring choruses
- Open Division brought fun and good entertainment—some fun stuff
- Visual plans are appropriate for the level of singing and generally well designed

#### Focus improvement efforts on:

- Consistent vocal skills, especially consistent vowel production
- Intervals—raise awareness of what it means to get “up & over” intervals to be on the top side of pitches
- Synchronization
- Balance roundness (resonance) with ring (forward placement in the mask)
- Lower scoring choruses:
  - \* Tempo choice, pulse, and backbeat
  - \* Interpretive plans including dynamics and musical energy
  - \* Selecting appropriate, strong contest music
- Taking advantage of interpretation possibilities in our arrangements

### Summary of comments—QUARTET competition:

#### Doing well:

- Vocal skills

- Singing with resonance
- Basses maintained presence in their lower range
- Use of tune-up chord before singing
- 31 quartets! Great regional support for each contestant
- Generally good selection of music that fits the performer, especially higher-scoring quartets
- Pretty good energy overall
- Makeup/grooming, hairstyles
- Nice attention to costuming details, i.e. black socks with black pants

#### Focus improvement efforts on:

- Consistent vocal skills, more attention at B- and lower levels
- Breath support, musical unity including stronger breath plans
- Singing with forward placement
- Dynamics, tempo, and rhythm
- Phrasing a ballad
- Picking appropriate music for the current skill level, especially lower scoring quartets
- Musical energy
- Musical artistry
- More zest when entering the stage, especially when coming from the middle

During an oral debrief with the judges, they encouraged us to celebrate our small choruses. The judges reminded us that small choruses around the world are scoring at unprecedented levels on the international stage. Exceptional performance is found in choruses of all sizes. Our judges encouraged our small choruses to shift their thinking—exceptional performance is no longer the realm of only large choruses! Let's believe in the power of small and mighty!

We have much to celebrate as a region. We are doing so many things well! And by using our regional score sheet along with our individual score sheets, we have a map to focus our journey's efforts for the coming year!

*Submitted by Debra Aungst*



## Two New Upcoming Workshops

Two workshops are in the development stage. Your regional Education Team plans to bring two specialized workshops to the region in 2016. We are seeking people interested in joining one of

the planning teams that will be designing the curriculum and class schedule for these workshops. We need multiple perspectives. We are seeking participants who are well versed and are potential faculty for the workshop. We are also seeking participants who may be less knowledgeable, will likely be students in the workshop and bring the perspective of the student, and who are interested in the topic.

### Directors and Musical Leaders Workshop

This workshop will be designed with multiple tracks to meet the needs of:

- frontline directors
- assistant/associate directors
- director certification program students
- section leaders and PVI givers
- aspiring musical leaders

### Visual Leaders and Teams

This workshop will be designed with multiple tracks to meet the needs of:

- choreographers, visual/staging teams
- costuming teams

- makeup/grooming teams
- show and scripting teams
- aspiring visual leaders

If you are interested in being considered, please send an email to [Debra Aungst](#), Education Coordinator. Include the following information:

- on which workshop planning team you want to participate
- why you are interested and what perspective you bring
- your name, telephone number, and your chorus/chapter

We are a very talented bunch! In so many ways we contribute to our choruses and barbershop community. Our talents come in many forms. Please consider volunteering for one of these planning teams. If this is not your “thing” but you know someone you think would be a good planning team member, please encourage her to submit her name for consideration.

*Submitted by Debra Aungst, Education Coordinator*

*On behalf of the Education Team: LouAnn Hommel, Teresa McCafferty, Sue Middleton, Valorie Osterman, Shelly Pardis, Missy Weeks, and Debby Zeller*

## Join Us For A RAH-RAH!

Please join North by Northwest Region 13 in Las Vegas for our third annual Rah-Rah event to support our competitors—and this year, there are many of them! Plan on joining us Tuesday mid-afternoon (specific time and location TBA) to cheer on our fantastic competing chorus and MANY quartets! Region 13 has SIX competitors representing us in Vegas this year, and we want to show up for all of them, and hear them before they hit the stage. Join us for a sneak preview and get AMPED UP with our competitors!

*Submitted by Jo Sahlin*



## RMT Report

The Regional Management Team met on June 5-6, 2015 in Portland, OR. Together, we:

- Reviewed the Region 13 Strategic Plan and developed action plans for 3 strategies
- Developed plans for visiting all the choruses in Region 13 over the next 3 years.

- Updated Region #13 Standing Rules
- Reviewed and approved job descriptions for Region 13 committees
- Worked with Communications Coordinator Pat Breen to complete the annual State of the Region Report.

Membership Coordinator Sharon Stockstad presented criteria for the Heart of the Northwest Award and suggestions for the Historian job description.

Marketing Coordinator Jo Sahlin reported on the plans for our "Rah Rah" activities in Las Vegas to support Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus and the 5 quartets (Frenzy, Pepper, PrimeTime, The Four Get Me Nots, and SoundFX) who will be representing our region in the International Competition. She also reported on the proposed Marketing Policy for outside vendors.

Finance Coordinator Danie Stiles brought copies of the 2014 income tax form. She will be working with the Events Coordinator to update the job

description for Harmony Emporium Coordinator. Directors Coordinator Nancy Kurth reported on the progress of the Director Buddy Program assignments, the Regional Arrangers Program to be presented during Harmony College Northwest, Director scholarships, and the new addition to our Region 13 website called "[The Coaching Connection](#)."

Education Coordinator Debra Aungst brought us up to date on plans for August 21-22 SET, area schools, and Quartet Workshop. She shared the 2015 Region 13 Judges Summary Comments and the five-year education plans.

Events Coordinator Judy Galloway reported about the very successful 2015 Regional Convention and Competition. She also outlined plans for the 2016 Convention and Competition.

The team is accepting applications for the 2016-18 term for these positions:

- Communications Coordinator
- Team Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator (this is an elected position by members of the region but we need a current RMT application on file to begin the process)
- Education Coordinator (this is an SAI appointment but needs to begin with the RMT application process, as well)

*Submitted by Sally Wallace*

### Riser chair for sale

The sale price is \$350 plus shipping, or it can be picked up by the purchaser. The chair is made by Peery: <http://www.peeryproducts.com/riser-chair.htm>

If you have any questions regarding this please feel to contact me.

*Faye Vlieger, Communications Coordinator Rolling Hills Chorus*

Home: 509-736-0922      Cell: 509-961-1095      Fax: 509-736-9529





## YWIH Festival for Pride of Portland

Although hosting a Young Women in Harmony event had been on our radar for several years, we were finally able to host our first annual Festival event. Young

women from four different schools joined *Pride of Portland Chorus* for an afternoon of singing and learning, plus a Saturday night show featuring the young ladies singing their workshop songs at Camas High School in Camas, WA.

Pride of Portland members Dawn Wright, Sarah Wallace, Elissa Riman, and Lisa Hendrickson, with assistance from Camille Lunt, Donna Steward, Kristine Levy, and Bette Crittenden, served as the section leaders. They provided specific guidance

during section rehearsals while other members worked as registration, chaperones, traffic control, on-site nurse, tag masters, ticket sales, show coordinators, backstage crew, marketing coordinators, pizza servers and MORE.

What a thrill it was to share the stage with these young women as they joined Pride of Portland on "We Are Family." It gives us hope that barbershop will continue and is alive in the hearts of young people. Plans are underway for next year's event in February 2016 with the support of two key music educators who allow us to bring barbershop into their classrooms.

*Submitted by Nancy Kurth*

### Young Women In Harmony—Are You a Local Advocate?

Are you interested in YWIH and youth activities? Are you currently (or have you in the past participated in) putting on a YWIH/youth camp, school, or other activity?

Why not get recognized for the things you are already doing?

We are looking for five YWIH Specialists, one in each of our primary geographic zones:

Alaska (thanks to Chera Boom who has already volunteered for this position!!)  
 Oregon/Southeast Washington  
 Idaho/Eastern Washington  
 Montana  
 Western Washington

By having a YWIH Specialist in each zone, we will improve our chances of linking programs, supporting outreach efforts, and helping chapters develop activities for the young women in their area. **We are seeking five volunteers to accept the YWIH specialist positions.** These volunteers will work with our Region's YWIH Coordinator to support the wonderful youth programs already underway in each of these zones and to help chapters develop their own strategies for supporting young women singers. It's easy—just send an email to [Debra Aungst](mailto:Debra.Aungst@ywihs.org), Education Coordinator indicating your interest.

**This is a wonderful opportunity to put your passions for singing and encouraging young singers together.**

**Don't wait! Do it now!** Get hold of Debra today!



## Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to *Anna Chamberlain*, Jet Cities Chorus. She received a scholarship last fall to support her application to the Director Certification Program (DCP). And congratulations to *Shelly Pardis*, Co-director of Helena Xpress Singers Chorus. She received a scholarship this spring to help cover her expenses to attend SET (Summer Enrichment Time) in August.

Each May and November a scholarship is awarded to a deserving North by Northwest Region 13 member who is seeking education opportunities offered by North by Northwest Region 13 or wishes materials/tools offered by Sweet Adelines International.

After receipt of their application and following their educational event, scholarship recipients submit a brief report outlining key things they are learning. Shelly will submit her report after SET this year. Anna has started but not completed her DCP, so we get a peek into her educational endeavors now. Anna writes in part,

*"I have been an active quartet and chorus singer since 1986, and have taken advantage of many educational opportunities and coaching sessions over the years. As a result of my experience, I am often called upon as adviser, coach, and musical leader.*

*However, my only formal music education was in piano and violin, with one semester of music theory in high school, and some vocal lessons along the way. So while I am immersed in barbershop and continue to learn, I don't always feel 'officially' qualified to teach others (whether or not that's valid!).*

*It is my hope that working through the Director Certification Program, sponsored in part through the Region 13 Scholarship, and in part through the Jet Cities Chorus' education budget, will help focus my knowledge base, and give me a 'credential' to add to my musical resume.*

*Thank you for continuing to support education in our Region!"*

Anna and Shelly are life-long learners! We are thrilled to award scholarships to support their educational endeavors! Congratulations, Anna and Shelly!

*Submitted by Debra Aungst, Education Coordinator*





## We Need YOU for the RMT!

The Regional Management Team (RMT) has four positions open: Team Leader, Communications Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and Education Coordinator. All positions serve

two-year terms; this term will be 2016-18. You can learn more about the RMT and find position descriptions for each position on the Region 13 website.

Plus, every year we receive applications for the 1-year Associate RMT Member position, for those who are interested in regional leadership but would like to get their feet wet first.

Interested in applying? We thought you would

be! You will need to be logged in to the Region 13 Members Only site to access this form. [Click here](#) to see the job descriptions and application.

We hope you will join us on the Regional Management Team! There is no feeling like being able to dream with other sisters in song and shape our community into a diverse, dynamic, and GROWING group of women in harmony. Get a taste of the sensation of helping us drive our mission!

I look forward to receiving your application :)

*Submitted by Jo Sahlin, Region 13 Marketing Coordinator, R13 Nominating Committee Chair*

## Alaska Area Workshop

*Ignite the Northern Lights*, an area-wide workshop held in Anchorage, Alaska on May 8-9, brought together members of Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus, their guests, and Sue Beck to experience a weekend filled with instruction and music. Sue is a certified showmanship judge, past International Board member, Regional quartet champion (seven times), certified director, and founder of Pacific Sound and Voices Northwest Choruses. Her knowledge and enthusiasm spilled over as she taught classes on "The Craft of Singing," "The Skill of Listening," and "The Art of Giving Back." Sue's advice on correct singing posture—lift your heart—rang a real barbershop chord with her audience.

*Submitted by Kathy Hughes*



## Rules, Rules, Rules

Rules are everywhere, but we all know that without rules, life could be chaos.

Have you reviewed your Chorus Standing Rules recently? You may be surprised to learn that you are not actually following the rules if they are not up to date. If changes need to be made, present your suggested changes to the board or management team where they will be discussed for presentation and vote by your membership.

Then the approved changes will need to be sent to our Regional Bylaws and Rules Chair, [Jolyn Wood](#). Her job is simply to be sure that nothing conflicts with SAI or regional bylaws and rules.

For those of you who have already done this, thank you. For the rest, we look forward to hearing from you.

*Submitted by Sally Wallace*





## Quartet Corner

### Pepper

It's a great time to be a *Pepper*!

April was a wonderful month of crazy busy-ness culminating in a fantastic competition, in which not one, but three quartets qualified for International. Go, Region 13! We're excited to

share the big stage with *Frenzy*, *Prime Time*, *Four Get Me Nots* and *SoundFX*.

In May, we launched our first ever Mother's Day Tea. It was catered by Andrea's very talented husband, Drew, owner of The Roost Bakery. The food was wonderful and we all got a chance to break out our china, crystal, and silver for the event.

We had a great time at Harmony College Northwest. This year we're taught a class, Barbershop Parts for Beginners, during Session 3. LouAnn was part of the panel on Youth Outreach Ideas and Strategies in Session 5. We loved seeing many of attending HCNW this year, it was great time to get your "Harmony On."

We're expecting our first Pepper baby in August and yes, if you come to International, you'll get to meet little Pepper. We're having a "Guess the Gender" 50/50 raffle, so be looking for that at HCNW and online. Because Andrea will be indisposed during that time, we will not be "in four-ce" at SET, but we'll have a presence. Can't wait until we see our harmony family at the next event. Hugs are welcome and encouraged.

*Submitted by LouAnn Hommel*

### Primetime

Gonna turn fundraising into FUNraising! Bring your inner diva and grab the mic for a little time in the spotlight! It's *Primetime* for Karaoke! Save the date: Friday, September 18, 7:30 p.m.

in the Everett area. We're having a party and want you there to sing along!

*Submitted by Patti, Katy, Sonja, and Sylvia*

### SoundFX

*SoundFX* had a blast at regional contest in Spokane, even though some of us were battling head colds, laryngitis, and allergies. GEEZ! Have never been prouder to have such a great score and only place 4th! Congratulations to our other medalists and to everyone who walked across that stage for contest. And we are THRILLED to have hung on to a WILDCARD score for this International! That makes us contestant #33 in Las Vegas, baby!

We are learning some new songs and working to always improve our levels. We are coaching with Jean Barford, Sharon Babb, and Betty Clipman, and we aim to make the region proud. Especially because of the fact that there are FIVE quartets representing Region 13! WAY TO GO, Region 13!

We will be at SET in August and hope to have a raffle or two and some items to sell for fundraising. And speaking of fundraising, we are having a show to help raise money for our expenses: Saturday, Sept. 12 at the First United Methodist Church of Bellevue, 1934 108th Ave NE (there is plenty of parking). Doors open at 5:30 pm for a cabaret-style spaghetti dinner, and the show starts at 6 pm. Email [Susan](mailto:Susan), or check the websites, [pacificsound.org](http://pacificsound.org) or [sairegion13.org](http://sairegion13.org), for details. Quartets out there, please let us know if you'd like to be on the show! "All y'all" can come have a delicious dinner and be entertained by local quartets and ensembles (and, of course, SoundFX), and help support us on our journey to Las Vegas! Region 13, We Love You!

*Submitted by Beth, Julie, Megan, and Susan*



## Region 13 Chorus Chatter

### a cappella Joy

**DROP THE MIC!** Prepare to split your sides!

*a cappella Joy Chorus* is having a show! Known for fresh, exciting and entertaining style, AJoy has learned tons of new music that we can't wait to share with you in our evening of fine music and hilarity.

The show will feature *Frenzy*, 2014 International 5<sup>th</sup> Place Medalists and Audience Choice for Most Entertaining Quartet 2013. Headlining will be *Storm Front*, 2010 BHS International Quartet champions, known for their uproarious shtick as well as fabulous sound.

There will be two shows on September 26, at 2 and 7 pm. The venue is the Northshore Performing Arts Center in Bothell (18125 92nd Ave NE, Bothell, WA) with plenty of free parking. Early bird tickets cost \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors) until September 15, then \$25/20. You can get tickets via [email](#), or on line beginning in July. Tickets will also be available at SET!

*Submitted by Arlene Blackmer*

### Alaska Sound Celebration

*Alaska Sound Celebration* embraces the '80s

Annie Lennox, Tina Turner, Olivia Newton John, and Michael J. Fox are among the celebrities spotted at Alaska Sound Celebration's rehearsals over the last few months.

The unusual guests were all part of ASC's "Everything 80s" campaign whereby chorus members are invited to come dressed as their favorite celebrities or characters from the 1980s.

Why the fascination with the '80s? "Our goal is to have all of our scores in the 80s and to have at least 80 singers on stage in Vegas, so our director asked me to put together some sort of campaign with events to help the chorus

embrace 80," chorus member Cheryl Ekstrom explained.

Ekstrom said she planned events during two rehearsals every month between February and when the chorus leaves for Vegas in October. Activities also have included having a dance instructor teach members moves from the 1980s—such as the "Cabbage Patch"—and having members guess which '80s character was stuck to their backs by asking other members questions.

"I am really enjoying our prep for Vegas with ASC," Master Director Peggy Benton said. "I was a little worried about the distractions of 'Summer in Alaska,' but it seems ASC has found a way around that! Love it!"

*Submitted by K.T. McKee*

### Cascade Harmony Chorus

Greetings from *Cascade Harmony Chorus*! We haven't checked in for a while, so we'll catch you up on our recent activities of the past several months. We have been busy!

In mid-March we had our chorus retreat at Resort at the Mountain, on the slope of Mt. Hood. What a beautiful setting for such a great weekend! It was three days of hard work but also a lot of laughter and camaraderie among our singing sisters. Our friend and super-coach, Carole Persinger, was there to share her knowledge, help us hone our skills, and contribute to the fun.

Since the Regional Contest in April, where we earned a 5<sup>th</sup> place medal, we have been settling into our new rehearsal site in Wilsonville, OR, which is a little closer to the greater Portland metropolitan area and I-5 corridor. Wilsonville is a thriving community just south of Portland and we hope to gain more members from the

*(continued page 11)*



## Chorus Chatter Continues...

*(continued from page 10)*

surrounding areas, as people get to know us.

In May, we began planning our next big membership push of the summer and had two very successful guest nights in June, which garnered us three returning members and two “newbies” to barbershop! We also organized our annual Garage Sale fund-raiser and brought in an all-time high of over \$2,400! A relatively painless way to add to our chorus coffers.

And most recently, on June 18, we had the pleasure of experiencing the coaching expertise of the incomparable Sharon Babb, before she headed up north to Harmony College for the weekend. Her knowledge of all things Sweet Adelines seems to have no limits!

The rest of the summer, we will be learning 2-3 new songs and polishing up some old ones, in preparation for our annual Fall Show in November. Stay tuned for more information...

We are looking forward to SET in August—see you then!!

*Submitted by Gail Shelton*

### Chapter at Large

Congratulations to Prospective Song of Seattle

My CAL roster will soon shrink when the *Prospective Song of Seattle Chorus*, under the direction of Paula Davis, charters sometime this year! After getting approval for the chorus name last spring, creating a [Facebook](#) page, hosting an informational meeting and subsequent auditions, and recently passing their performance evaluation with Regional Faculty Member Charlene O'Connor, the chorus now has 20+ talented singers, 176 Facebook likes, and a fantastic debut performance to their credit that featured CAL member *Sylvia Posso* playing the African drums!



The chorus was the brainchild of Paula Davis, current SAI President-Elect who recently transferred into R13 CAL; Katy Hawley, a current CAL member and multiple award-winning Region 13 quartet lead and Faculty member; and the late Melanie Wroe, a beloved and accomplished Sweet Adeline and dual chorus/CAL member who passed away last year after a brief but heroic battle with cancer.

In addition to a number of dual-chorus members and guests, whom you will hear more about in future editions of the InTune, many savvy and sensational current CAL members are helping to give this chorus wings to fly, including Katy Hawley, Debra Aungst, Sydney Thompson, Kay Scharr, Sonja Mejlender, Tami Kamp, Jodi Meyer, Candi Bartleson, Karen Fejta, and Paula Davis.

Check out their [Facebook](#) page for more information, and future editions of the InTune for what's happening on their exciting journey!

*Submitted by Cris Conerty*

### Coeur d'Alene Chorus

The theme for *Coeur d'Alene Chorus* has been GROWTH! After winning the Region 13 Starburst Award for greatest percentage increase in membership in both 2013 and 2014, we kept growing, but dialed it back to third place in 2015.

*(continued page 12)*



## More Chorus Chatter...

(continued from page 11)

We were most excited about increasing our competition score—last year, we received a C+ rating for our Open Division package, and made it our goal to improve to a B- in 2015. One might expect it to be tough to improve scores with so many new members, but our newbies were hard workers. We were exceedingly pleased to find we surpassed our goal, and received a B rating!

Another exciting sidelight to competition was that International used our chorus in a video as the example of how to effectively use props in an Open Division entertainment package. (Also because Region 13 had the earliest convention in 2014, Coeur d'Alene Chorus was the very first chorus in the international organization to perform in Open Division!)

One more area of growth—QUARTETS! Seven years ago, no Coeur d'Alene Chorus members were in quartets. Since then, we have usually had one or two quartets going, but now we have members associated with FIVE auditioned quartets: *Q-Topia*, *Blended Spice*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Accent* and *Wishcraft*! Keep it going, girls!

*Submitted by Lori Gessner*

### Grand Olympics Chorus

On the surface it might appear to be a quiet time of year but beneath the quiet there is a lot going on. *Grand Olympics Chorus* is preparing for this year's show, *Broadway Nights*,

which will come to Sequim on September 26, 2016, at 4 pm. We are busy learning music from Broadway productions over the years and we are working on choreo to go along. It's going to be fun! Our versatile director, Mr. Barbershop himself, Mike Menefee, is learning his choreo, too. He is quite a good dancer and could probably keep up with any chorus line.

We had a great time at Regional Competition this year. We didn't compete! We did the new entertainment package for a grade level and feedback only. It was fun and we were pleased to rise to a higher grade level. Mike appeared barefooted and walked all the way through the pattern and onto the stage sans shoes. He really did act the part of the country bumpkin.

We are planning a goal setting session for the end of June at the Cutting Garden (you can Google it). We will also host a Guest Night in the near future but a date has not been set yet.

After our show in September we will prepare for our participation in the annual Veteran's Day ceremonies at the Coast Guard Station in Port Angeles.

*Submitted by Melanie Griffith*

### Helena Xpress Singers

Membership Plan Finalized

Having been stagnant for the past few years at around 25 members, *Helena Xpress Singers Chorus* is implementing an aggressive plan for  
(continued page 13)

## REGIONAL EVENTS

### JULY

**July 18: 4th Annual Seattle's Best Tag Party** in Scapposse, OR: join us to eat, drink, and ring chords all night!

### AUGUST

**August 20-22: Summer Enrichment Training (SET)** in Federal Way, WA is the educational event of the year in Region 13! Join all your Sweet Adeline sisters and Learn to Ignite the Stage!

### SEPTEMBER

**Sept 12: SoundFX Goes WILD (card)** in Bellevue, WA from 6-8:00 pm.

**Sept 26: a cappella joy Show** in Bothell, WA. Both afternoon and evening shows, times TBA

### OCTOBER

**Oct 3: Five Valley Chapter Show** in Missoula, MT. Co-sponsored with BHS Chorus Missoula Rocky Mountainaires

**Oct 3: Bridger Mountain Harmony Chorus Show** "With A Little Help From My Friends"

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





## Additional Chorus Chatter..

(continued from page 12)

membership recruitment this fiscal year. With an expanded marketing budget to work with for 2015-16, the chorus is hoping to lure more potential members to recruiting events. Those events will include a Star Spangled Banner membership promotion (rehearse with us for three weeks and then sing the National Anthem with our chorus at the ballpark); a women's talent search in conjunction with our annual fall show (with incentives for membership); our annual Christmas Chorus; and a special Barbershop Harmony Day this winter.

Most of our money for marketing will be spent on radio and TV advertising. Also included in the publicity plan will be flyers, newspaper articles, social media, and, of course, word of mouth.

If you're the Marketing Chair of a Region 13 chorus, I would like to hear from you concerning any new and "outside-the-box" marketing ideas. You can contact me via [email](#). Thanks!

*Submitted by Barb Leland*

### Olympia Chorus

Fast pace, dedicated learning, and big fun!

The *Olympia Chapter* of Sweet Adelines has been on a positive musical journey! All members have stepped up to the plate, learning music at a fast pace, recruiting new members, and having a great time doing what we all enjoy most, "singing the barbershop craft."

Our new Front Line Director, Mary Neff, has been a wonderful positive influence. Singing under Mary's direction is educational and lots of fun. Weekly rehearsals are well attended (even with the Northwest's great weather) because we don't want to miss a thing.

The members' enjoyment, willingness to learn, and practice have had significant impact on our

word-of-mouth marketing. We are so excited about our new members and former Olympia members returning to our chorus!

Currently, we are on our show journey! We're learning and rehearsing nine songs in preparation for the show being performed on Saturday, September 26, 2015, 2:00 pm, at South Puget Sound Community College.



The Olympia Chorus is excited about our new and continued journey! We love sharing our music and positive outlook. Please put our show date on your calendar and look for upcoming ticket information.

It's great to be a Sweet Adeline!

*Submitted by Patty Martin*

### Pride of Portland

721! *Pride of Portland* won its seventh consecutive regional championship in Spokane with another record-breaking score. We're currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world! No resting on our laurels, though. A full docket of coaching sessions is planned for the next eighteen

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## Final Chorus Chat

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months including Erin Howden (September 18-19) and Sharon Babb (November 20-21). Guests are welcome. Drop our membership coordinators, [Cheryl Gertz](#) or [Donna Stewart](#), a line if you plan to visit.

Pride kept busy this spring, hosting its first Young Women in Harmony Festival in May. Organized by Nancy Kurth, this successful workshop attracted thirty women from area high schools. In early June, we launched our first annual Spring Fete fundraising event where local businesses were invited to learn about Pride and become sponsors. An army of Pride members worked to make this sell-out bash a huge



triumph.

Summer is here, but fall is just around the corner and that means show time! Pride will be "Puttin' On the Ritz" October 17 at the PCC Performing Arts Center with two special guests: *Speed of Sound*, the 2015 International 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Quartet, and *Portland Timbre*, PSU's men's a cappella group. There will be two shows: a matinee and an evening show. Look for details on our [website](#) coming soon.

Submitted by Jo Brehm

### Spirit of Spokane Chorus

*Spirit of Spokane Chorus* has had an exciting few months. We broke into the B+ range, received the award for "Most Improved," earned 3rd-place Mid-sized Chorus and got 4<sup>th</sup> place overall! Not to mention we are over the moon about our

quartets' performances. *Pepper* is going to Las Vegas as the Region 13 Champion. We have a new quartet called *WishCraft* and a new double quartet, *Make It a Double*. We're already looking to next year's competition with a brand-new up-tune and a new ballad. There will be lots of music and choreography to learn over the summer. Is that before or after our garage sale, volunteering at Ironman in Coeur d'Alene, and performing at the Spokane County Fair?

Submitted by Lauren Apfelbaum

### Voices Northwest Chorus

"Gee but it's good to be here!"

What a thrilling year *Voices Northwest Chorus* has experienced so far. We worked hard in preparation for Regional in Spokane under the artistic guidance of Director Charlene O'Connor, with excellent help from coaches Sandy Marron, Carole Persinger, and Katy Hawley. We also profited from the advice of our resident judges, Patti Burklund and Sue Beck.

There was a noticeable "buzz" about VNW running through the area's grapevine which resulted in a 32 percent gain in membership. We took in nine new members ahead of contest, and they're all staying with us! VNW's pre-competition effort paid off as we took home the gold medal in the Small Chorus category, and placed 7th overall. Plus, we were recognized for the largest growth in membership. Current business at hand is to find a larger rehearsal space in the Everett vicinity (not an easy task but one we are smiling about).

Director Charlene has ambitious plans for us in the coming months, and we are pumped to the max about them. Just like that old song says: "This is where the excitement is!" VNW used a chorus mantra as we worked: "Hustle and heart will set us apart"—and it did. *Voices Northwest* rocks!

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## Introducing The Mirabelles!

Region 13 has its own ALL CAL quartet! *The Mirabelles* are a Boise-based collegiate Sweet Adeline International quartet on their way to the Rising Star Quartet Contest, to be held August 8, 2015 in Phoenix, AZ. The four marvelous members of The Mirabelles, pictured here, are Samantha Lancaster (Bass), Ariel Thomas (Lead), Robyn Whitmore (Baritone), and Louise Heindel (Tenor).

Although these women are all involved in multiple ensembles at Boise State University, they manage to take time out of their busy college schedules to take over a practice room to sing (and compete) in the barbershop style! This is the first time any of them have been in an official SAI quartet, and they couldn't be more excited.

They officially formed the quartet in late October 2014 after hearing the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2012 International Champions, *Ringmasters*, perform during a BSU Vocal Jazz Ensemble's rehearsal. Since then, they have created their official [Facebook](#) page (please LIKE!), opened their own [Twitter](#) account, passed their performance evaluation with Region 13 Education Coordinator Debra Aungst, and have worked tirelessly to solidify their music for the Rising Star contest. The Mirabelles currently plan to compete in Region 13 in spring 2016.

Although The Mirabelles reside in Rocky Mountain Region 8, they received permission from SAI to affiliate with North by Northwest Region 13 due to several reasons. From Boise it is easy to drive to Washington, Oregon, and Montana, but more expensive and difficult to get to Colorado (where Region 8's yearly competition is usually held). Since everywhere in Region 13 is drivable, even in the winter, the quartet can more easily attend regional competitions and other events. Additionally, most of the quartet's friends and connections are through the BHS Evergreen District.

Please extend your good thoughts, best wishes, and many hands of friendship to The Mirabelles! Louise, Ariel, Robyn, and Sam would LOVE to hear from you!

*Submitted by Cris Conerty,  
Region 13 Chapter-At-Large  
Coordinator*

