



Sandy Marron's 25th Anniversary

by Cammi Mackinlay

November 1, 1991 was an auspicious and pivotal date in the life of Lions Gate Chorus. It was the day that Sandy Robinson agreed to be our director! Having recently graduated from the Director's Certification Program in Burnaby Chorus (now Westcoast Harmony), she was looking for a challenge and Cammi MacKinlay, then President of Lions Gate, just happened to make that phone call of invitation that changed our lives dramatically! And the rest, as they say, is history!



Under Sandy's leadership and with her amazing teaching skills, in the past 25 years Lions Gate has earned eleven regional gold medals, a record-breaking regional score of 703 in 2016, and five top five International medals, no mean achievement for a chorus from Region 26! Sandy became a Master Director in 1999 with a regional score of 630, and then a Master 700 Director in Nashville 2009, with a record-breaking

semi-finals score of 1488 (equivalent to 744 at regional). The climb has been slow and steady, with a few bumps along the way, but just think what the next few years will bring! With Sandy at the helm, anything is possible!

Lions Gate held two parties to celebrate Sandy's 25th anniversary – one on Saturday October 29 and the second one on the actual date of the anniversary, which happened to be our regular chorus rehearsal night. We welcomed current and former members and guests to both soirees, and reminisced with a costume parade, anecdotes of memorable moments in Sandy's life as a director, speeches recognizing her importance in our lives, a video compilation of snippets of contests and shows and performances from 1995 until now, a retrospective of Sandy's directorship put together by Corinne

Newell, a photo booth for candid photos, a Love Box full of thank you notes and of course, gifts! Elvera Collier hand-quilted a beautiful lion for Sandy, we purchased a brick in her honour on the Sweet Adelines International headquarters patio and we presented her with a custom-made silver pendant of the Lions Gate logo.

All in all, Sandy was celebrated for the talented, incredible woman and director that she is, the driving force behind Lions Gate's success. She eats, sleeps and breathes the chorus and we are all the stronger for it! Here's to the next 25 years!

The YouTube video put together by Corinne Newell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYipd9bx-hg&feature=share>
 The video of snippets of contests and shows put together by Natalie Cotton.
<https://youtu.be/8bbxbO64kfU>



Directors are an incredibly hard-working of women in Region 26!

These conveyors of music stand up every week and purposely bring together every aspect of the song to you.

Best of all, they are our friends.



Region 26 Directorships

1-5 years

Emma Gibson
Leslie Hoffman
Sean Huston
Debra Parmenter
Maja Weibe

Peace Arch
Heart of the Island, Peace Arch
Valley Echoes
Vernon Kalamalka
Chinook Winds Show Chorus

6 - 15 years

Janice Caravan
Connie Coleman
Anne Downton
Annette Duhaime
Lisa Greenough
Mary Hager
Lisa Hunszinger
Denise Lindenbach
Cheryl Pearce
Caroline Richards

Desert Sounds Harmony
River Hills
Westcoast Harmony
Battlefords Blend
Gateway Chorus
Rhythm of the Rockies
River Hills & Alberta Heartland
Prairie Gold
Magic City
Vocal Motion

16 - 20 years

Betty Baldwin
Debra Sneddon
Julie Smith

Southern Accord
Arbutus Sounds
City of Gardens

21 - 25 years

Marsha Fulton
Sandy Marron

White Sails, +1 US + 2 Ontario
Lions Gate - *Congrats again!*

>25 years

Sheryl Brook (29)
Deb Redman (36)

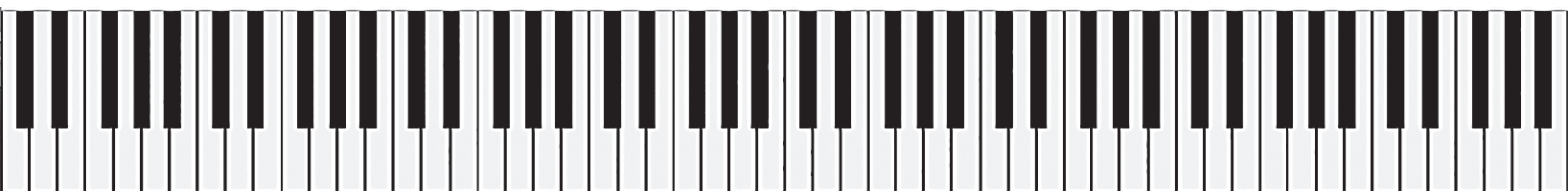
Alberta Gold, Lloydminster,
River Hills & Hearts of Harmony
Pacific Mist

Director Certification Program NEWS!

The Judge Specialists and the Education Direction Committee (EDC) have developed a new DCP level! Starting in 2017, those directors that score at least 500 points at regional competition, and have already achieved the level of Certified Director, are eligible for the advancement to Harmony 500 Director.

Lynda Elliott - DCP Coordinator

SEE PAGE 8



RMT update

1 - Directors Breakfast with the Judges Thanks to a great proposal by EdCo Lisa Hunszinger, all R26 directors, whether competing this spring or not, will have an opportunity to share breakfast with our judging panel at the conclusion of contest weekend, Sunday April 30th. This will not be for analysis of the contest or anyone's scoresheets, rather an opportunity for directors to learn about the categories and general judging and competition information from the experts in the pit. Even better, this breakfast will be hosted by Region 26! You won't want to miss this great opportunity to get 'up close and personal' with Tori Postma, Dixie Dahlke, Mary Ashford and Vicky Maybury *Directors, please RSVP to Lisa Hunszinger lhunszinger@shaw.ca by January 31, 2017*

2 - Director Workshop 2017 Also of special interest to Chorus Directors: Region 26's home-grown internationally-known director and coach Mo Field will be leading a Director Workshop in the Vancouver lower mainland in September 2017. Details TBA

3 - Chapter Leader Forums at (RES) 2017

Regional Education Symposium (RES) in Edmonton AB August 17-20, 2017 at Grant McEwan College, featuring great classes led by FRENZY! newly crowned International Champion quartet will also include forums for Directors and Team Coordinators/Chapter Presidents as well as Finance Coordinators and Membership/Marketing Coordinators. Travel share will be in effect for Directors and Team Coordinators/Chapter Presidents for those sessions. Forums are often held on Sunday morning - keep that in mind when organizing your travel plans.

3 - The RMT re-visited our Regional Core Values, and made a very few minor adjustments to wording. We take great pride in these Core Values, and in the vision and clear thinking of previous RMT members that created them. Our Core Values are restated below for your interest. These represent 'guiding principles' that dictate behaviour and action in Region 26, certainly for the RMT and all aspects of regional governance, but we hope for all of our region's choruses, quartets and members as well:

Region 26 Core Values

Integrity - Region 26 maintains a culture of integrity and mutual respect, rooted in honesty, transparency, and authenticity.

Collaboration - Region 26 is committed to creative, effective teamwork and clear, positive communication within an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Appreciation - Region 26 recognizes and supports our members' accomplishments, appreciating that each member contributes to Region 26's unlimited potential.

Fun - Region 26 inspires, encourages and celebrates joy, laughter, friendship, and the pleasure and satisfaction of whole-hearted engagement in the barbershop art form.

Sustainability - Region 26 is forward thinking and financially responsible, providing stability, continuity, and creativity in our programs, services, and leadership development.

Innovation - Region 26 prides itself on a progressive, leading edge, and dynamic approach to furthering the barbershop art form.

Education - Region 26 leaders collaborate to provide unlimited access to knowledge and resources for its members.

Excellence - Region 26 operates with the philosophy and practices that enable long-term, consistent achievement of our goals, and increasingly higher levels of performance.

4 - Additional Chapter Visits Kudos to Membership Coordinator Donna Dunning who has done some digging and discovered that our region is eligible to receive additional funding from SAI for chapter visits! Similar to what we already have in place for musical coaching, these additional funded visits will provide support to chapters in areas such as membership growth and retention, marketing and PR, and/or various kinds of administrative assistance such as team building, communication skills development, etc. HOW EXCITING IS THAT?! Stay tuned for more details from our Education and Membership Coordinators.

5 - Interchapter events A reminder to all chapters that regional funding is available for inter-chapter events that you may wish to set up in your area, to promote educational or fun/social connections between choruses in 2017-18. To learn more about this or to apply with your event proposal, contact Team Coordinator Vicky Smith vickysmith@shaw.ca

6 - IMPORTANT member reminder: if you have an email address change, or change of any other contact information, OR if you have a change of chapter role (Team Leader, Director, Choreographer, Finance Manager etc.) PLEASE log in to the www.region26.com Members Only area and update your information. It is your responsibility to keep your personal profile up to date. If you don't, you may miss important communications and information.

7 - Mass Sing 2017 Due to time constraints on contest weekend for our new International Quartet Champions, FRENZY! (Region 13 and 26 contests are on the same weekend) our Mass Sing has been changed to a FRENZY! celebration. It will be held in the ballroom of the Guildford Sheraton 12:15 - 1:00pm Friday. There will be some singing, some woo-hooing and of course photo opps with the Queens and much trying-on of crowns! This happy event will immediately precede ...

8 - Education Class 2017 during contest weekend, this year to be led by the one-and-only Jan Carley “The Inner Coach of Barbershop”. Jan inspires greatness with her wisdom, practicality, insight and humour, and will be offering highlights and nuggets of info from her new book “Finding Your Overtone”. I bet you’ll even be able to buy a copy!

9 - The new Regional Governance pilot project is now underway. RMT has submitted our recommendations for the three Regional Executive Directors (Admin, Education and Membership) Results will be announced some time after February 10th. Immediately thereafter, we will call for applications for various resource/support staff positions. Exciting and challenging times are ahead! If you have a hankering to serve at the regional level, now is a very good time to let that interest be known. Questions and inquiries can be directed to Joey Minshall <joey.minshall@gmail.com>

10- Webcast update: SEE PAGE 6 - NEW INFO!!!!
NEW INFORMATION!!!

That’s it for now! See you soon for
“One Voice” in Surrey, April 27-30, 2017

FAMILY CHORUS in SURREY
Caroline Richards (Dir.) Mae Janik (Choreo)
Registration coming soon!!!

Save the Date

River Hills Chorus' 20th Anniversary Celebration

Join us at 7:30 PM February 3, 2017 at the Wainwright Communiplex for an evening of music followed by fun at our wine and cheese social fundraiser to celebrate 20 years of harmony!

www.riverhillchorus.com

Region 26 welcomes incoming RMT members

Director Coordinator Lisa Greenough &
Events Coordinator Kathryn Roberts

Welcome!!!



LISA



KATHRYN

In the new governance pilot project, incoming as well as current RMT will be serving in various roles under the new structure pilot, which will go into effect May 1, 2017.

Lisa Greenough, Gateway Chorus, Edmonton Alberta

As a 28 year Sweet Adeline there aren't many jobs Lisa hasn't done. Starting out as duty coffee and snacks coordinator in her first chorus at 16 to now front line Master Director and Approved Candidate Judge (Sh). In between those years she has served as section leader and assistant in multiple sections, assistant director, co-director, choreographer, regional education faculty and coach to many! She believes leadership is a role best served from a service perspective. 'What can she do for you to make you more successful?' In her role as the Director Coordinator she is looking forward to connecting with all the Region 26 Directors and assisting them to further develop their leadership and directing skills and finding both personal and professional success.

Kathryn Roberts, Gateway Chorus, Edmonton Alberta

Kathryn's a capella career began in 2003, as a tenor in Gateway Chorus in Edmonton Alberta. During the week days, she is a Business Analyst at Alberta Health Services. Her other harmony love is singing in N'Intrigue Quartet. She has been on the Gateway Chorus management team as Events Coordinator and Communication Coordinator for years, and enjoyed the challenge of fundraising in the past. Kathryn believes in the sisterhood of Sweet Adelines, and says it is an awesome place to grow, and express oneself artistically.

Gateway Chorus Drives Differently

It's January and Gateway Chorus is taking advantage of the New Year's resolutions season to focus on self-improvement goals that people tend to generate at this time of year.

Gateway doesn't do scheduled membership drives, per se.



Gateway Chorus Members (Lisa G centre blue)

They do membership "pushes" or highlighting events throughout the year, typically in the fall, pre-Christmas, post-Christmas, and post-contest. Right now, they are putting together a "Resolution You Can Keep" type of push, says director Lisa Greenough.

Marketing for new members is an on-going process. This past fall, they did some online pushes for women to come and visit and check things out. In December of 2015 Gateway put together a "Sing with Us" push where women could join the chorus for Christmas songs at their annual Christmas performance.

It isn't all about the numbers though. Gateway has been a mid-size chorus for over 20 years, which hasn't hindered their success. Greenough says, "I don't so much look at the numbers of bodies, but the success and development I see in the chorus both as individual members as well as the whole"

Like many choruses, Gateway finds that their membership "pushes" or drives are initially successful in terms of interest, but the potential new members find it challenging to fit the whole package into their schedules. Gateway is currently working on removing those challenges and obstacles for new incoming members.

In putting together their advertisements, Gateway draws upon the Sweet Adelines graphics available online in the marketing area, and they use some of the recommended script too. But for the most part, Gateway tries to use language that reflects who Gateway is specifically.

Greenough recommends making membership advertising as authentic as possible. Are you a sing-for-fun kind of chorus or a hard working, skill-development type chorus? Let your audience know. "The more authentic and real you are in your advertising the better chance you have of finding the ladies that will be a good fit on both sides"

At the end of the day, whether five women, ten women, or only one woman finds Gateway Chorus through a membership "push", they know it's a been success.

Rhythm of the Rockies

Last Fall, Rhythm of the Rockies tried out a new approach to their membership drive.

The management team decided to invite women from around Calgary to come and sing with them on their Christmas show, Speaking of Christmas. Rhythm of the Rockies had heard of other choruses in Region 26 doing this type of membership drive and they also found some information on the Sweet Adelines website about other groups in which this had become their main source of new members, so they decided to try it out. The newbies were dubbed the "A Capella Christmas" members, and in total there were 30 new faces on the risers for the Christmas show.

Through widespread advertising and word-of-mouth, over 40 visitors came through the

door to check out the chorus. The management team had three people dedicated to advertising and marketing and they set up road signs and online posters, which were featured on kijiji, community websites, community boards, radio station boards, and social media. Rhythm of the Rockies is fortunate to have several members with business and marketing experience. A lot of research was done on the best locations for the road signs, and it ended up paying off. Many of the women who walked through the door said it was the road signs that caught their attention.

Rhythm of the Rockies director, Mary Hager, committed 3 months to the program. At each rehearsal, 90 minutes was spent focusing on the A Capella Christmas women and teaching them the foundational skills of singing a cappella. After those 90 minutes, Hager

continued with the regularly scheduled rehearsal, which included more Christmas songs and barbershop too. The A Capella Christmas members

Throughout the membership drive, there were two Rhythm of the Rockies members who stayed connected with all of the visitors to make them feel



were always encouraged to stay for the second half of the rehearsal to see more of how the chorus worked, and to listen to them rehearse the rest of the program.

The A Capella Christmas visitors even got the pleasure of experiencing an evening of voice placement with the chorus and were encouraged to attend a coaching session too.

a part of the group.

Rhythm of the Rockies is very happy with the results of their membership drive this year. Of the 30 A Capella Christmas members who sang on the show, four have since auditioned and become full-fledged new members of the group.



REGION 26'S FIRST REGIONAL WEBCAST! APRIL 28-29, 2017!

We are so excited and extremely proud to announce a star-studded cast of *very special* Region 26 members as hosts of our first-ever regional competition webcast!

Anchoring the Quartet Contest on Friday April 28th evening will be **Corinna Garriock**, with co-hosts **Shannon Harris** and **Anne Downton**. Corinna is well known and loved around the world as the tenor of 2012 International Quartet Champion **Martini**. She also arrangers, coaches, teaches, writes, is Associate (Master) Director of Lions Gate Chorus, an Approved Music Judge, serves on R26's REF, and

is currently in her first term on SAI's Education Direction Committee. Shannon is Region 26's one-and-only (so far!) "Double Queen"! A member of Lions Gate Chorus, Shannon won her first crown in 2004 as the bass of **Brava!** and her second in 2012 as the bass of **Martini**. I guess that makes her a 'Double Bass' Queen! Anne is a Master Director (Westcoast Harmony Chorus) and the baritone of our newly-crowned 2017 International Quartet Champions, **Frenzy!** Anne also serves on R26 REF and SAI's Music Sales & Marketability Committee.

The Chorus Contest on Satur-

day April 29th will be anchored by **Elaine Cotton**, with co-hosts **Lynn Tatton** and **Cammi Mackinlay**. Elaine is an Associate Director of Lions Gate Chorus, and the baritone of R26's much-loved first-ever International Quartet, **Brava!** (2004) Lynn is the lead of that same much-loved **Brava!** quartet, served for a number of years on R26's REF, and contributed much queenly expertise to her home chorus of many years, Westcoast Harmony Chorus. Cammi has so many listings under her bio we can hardly fit them all in here! She is a PIP (Past International President of SAI (2010-12)), and currently serves not only at the

chapter level as Team Coordinator for Lions Gate Chorus, but also at the regional level on R26's REF, and internationally on the IBOD. She is an International Faculty member, Chair of the Regional Leadership Coordinators team, and is Co-Chair of IES 2017 "Back To The Future". AND she sings in a quartet, Fandango! Oh and she's a Panel Secretary and on the Editorial Review Board for the PitchPipe Magazine. Yoiks! That is one busy woman!

MORE NEW information about the webcast: Cost will be

\$25US for the entire quartet and chorus contests and the Parade of Champions.

The company providing the service is from the Seattle area, thus the cost is in US dollars. Purchasers will receive a dedicated link to the webcast.

Advertising and sales will commence very soon. Let your friends and family know, if they have to stay home they can still see you perform "live" onstage

at the Chandos-Pattison Theatre in Surrey BC!



CORINNA



SHANNON



ANNE



ELAINE



LYNN



CAMMI

REGION 26 MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE- CANADA 150

We are the only ALL - CANADIAN Region in the Sweet Adelines world. Being that this year is Canada's 150th birthday, let's grow our membership by 150 this year!!! That's 18% per chorus. C'mon I know we can do it!

2016 Election of International Board of Directors - YAY CAMMI!!!!

The election to select members to serve on the International Board of Directors concluded Wednesday, December 7, 2016, and following the election, the International Board of Directors appointed two additional members to the International Board of Directors. The following members will begin their term on May 1, 2017, and will serve along with the continuing members of the Board:

Paula Davis, Song of Seattle Chorus, Region 13 – serving May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2020

Cammi MacKinlay, Lions Gate Chorus, Region 26 – serving May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2020

Renée Porzel, Melodeers Chorus, Region 3 – serving May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2020

Mary Rhea, O.K. City Chorus, Region 25 – serving May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2020

Sharon Cartwright, Northern Beaches Chorus, Region 34 – serving May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2018

Jeanne d'Arc (JD) Crowe, Canadian Showtime Chorus, Region 16 – serving May 1, 2017, to April 30, 2018



Executive Committee

Paula Davis, International President

Marcia Pinvidic, Immediate Past President

Patty Cobb Baker, President-elect

Joan Boutilier, Secretary

JD Crowe, Treasurer

Recognition of all International involvement will take place at 1st Nite, the kick off to "ONE VOICE", Region 26 Convention! We're Canadian and we have a lot to sing about!



READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

DIRECTOR **C**ERTIFICATION **P**ROGRAM

Director Certification Program

If you are a budding front-line director, assistant director, or if you just want to improve your arm-waving skills and musical knowledge, the Director Certification Program is for you!

The Director Certification Program (DCP) is an educational program designed to provide additional training and further develop skills for Sweet Adelines International directors, potential directors, and musical leaders, along with chorus and quartet singers. The program provides opportunities to validate the skills and knowledge required to direct a Sweet Adelines chorus.



LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE!

ACCESS THE DCP RESOURCE MODULES

RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM THE EXPERTS

ENHANCE YOUR MUSICAL EDUCATION

ACQUIRE NEW LEADERSHIP SKILLS

CONTACT
Lynda Elliott - DCP Coord
lyndajelliott@gmail.com

Or, call 1-800-992-7464 (918-622-1444 overseas) and ask for information on the Director Certification Program.

You can start at any time!
Why not today?

To avoid conflict of dates all choruses are reminded that upcoming events should be coordinated with Vicky Smith, and report to TL of each local chorus. Region 26 Team Coordinator; Email: vickysmith@shaw.ca



R26 CALENDAR

2017

Mar 17-18 Chinook Winds Show
 Apr 8 Southern Accord Show - Almost Famous
 Apr 27-30 Regional Convention, Surrey, BC
 May 6 Rhythm of the Rockies Show
 May 20 City of Gardens Show
 Aug 2 - 6 IES, Baltimore MD
 Aug 17-20 RES, Edmonton AB save the date!!! with FRENZY!!!!
 Oct 9 -14 International Convention in Las Vegas NV

2018

May 3-6 Regional Convention, Surrey, BC
 Oct 15-20 International Convention in St Louis, MS

2019

Apr 11-14 Regional Convention (Location TBA)
 Sep 16 - 21 International - New Orleans

2020

Apr 30 - May 3 Regional Convention (Location TBA)

LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENTS!

We'll post them here & online.

Next Maple Leaf EXPRESS is APRIL 1st and stuff is due the week before. region26contest@gmail.com

We appreciate and welcome all feedback on any issue of the Express.

Thank You Vicky!!!

We will be moving all of the important info and links to the Dashboard page next month. This should make it easier to find everything you need! *Yell*



REGION 26 CHORUS OR QUARTET ADS FREE!



Groupanizer is a preferred supplier!
Ad exchanged for promotional consideration

>> EDITOR <<
Yvonne Meyer
 <region26contest@gmail.com>

WEB LINKS TO BARBERSHOP

- www.barbershop.org
- www.evgsings.org (Evergreen District BHS)
- www.barbershophistory.com
- www.barbershop.de (BinG)
- www.labbs.org.uk/ (Ladies British BBS)
- www.harmonyinc.org (Women BBS)
- www.snobs.org (Nordic Barbershop)

Message me if you know of others. *Yell*

ANY DONATION IS WELCOME!



Like it says, ANY donation will be appreciated!
 Challenge: Sing a song, bake some cookies, or pass a hat.... collect donations and contact Susan to send a cheque or e-transfer. Any donation! We'll congratulate all participants in the next Maple Leaf Express.

E-transfers to finregion26@gmail.com
 Susan Dumas - sdumas3255@gmail.com