

# VOL. 42

NO. 1

AMERICAN  
CHORAL  
DIRECTORS  
ASSOCIATION 

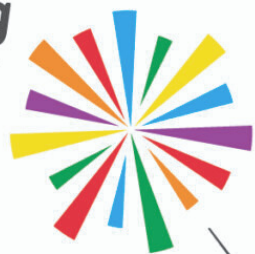
# RESOUND

CENTRAL REGION PERIODIC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

Joining

# V O I C E S



## ACDA Conference

Central & North Central Region

Milwaukee, WI

March 4 - 7, 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Regional Conference*

*Election Results*

*Summer ReTreat*

*Stegman Award Winner*

*Skipping Winter*

## LEADERSHIP

President

Karyl Carlson

Illinois State University

Vice President

Mark Munson

Bowling Green State  
University

Treasurer

Leslie Manfredo

Chicago, IL

Editor- Resound

Chris Ludwa

Kalamazoo College

President- Michigan ACDA

Clayton Parr

Albion College

President- Ohio ACDA

Brandon Moss

Columbus Gay Men's  
Chorus

President- Illinois ACDA

Jeff Wilson

Greenville University

President- Indiana ACDA

Kerry Glann

Ball State University

## MILWAUKEE REGISTRATION OPEN

Joining Voices is all about the process of making connections both within and between singers from various walks of life. All aspects of the conference are designed to help choral conductors/teachers increase the richness of their work with singers. The conference will represent the primary ACDA Repertoire and Resource areas—Youth, Collegiate, Lifelong, and Repertoire-Specific (Men's, Women's, Jazz, Ethnic, Contemporary/Commercial)—with a diverse, broad representation of performances and interest sessions that explore the potential for choral organizations and ensembles to create rich, rewarding, and meaningful connections between singers, audiences, and communities. In addition to celebrating our past traditions, the conference will feature ensembles and programs that represent underserved populations and/or diversities. Further, the conference will highlight innovative choral programming and practices. Throughout the conference, you will not only hear inspiring performances (all in the incredible Marcus Center), but you will also learn from inspiring master clinicians, most of whom engage in choral music making within the Central and North Central Region's elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools and lead church and community choirs. If you are eager to help your singers connect to one another in meaningful ways, to help them sound better, to sing with greater artistry, to better connect their musical "doing" with their musical thinking and feeling, and to value the role music plays in their lives and in the lives of our communities, then Joining Voices is for YOU! Click on the logo above for registration.



# INSPIRED IN THE LAND OF LINCOLN...

Greetings, Central Region Choral Colleagues!

As I begin my term as IL-ACDA president, I count it a privilege to be able to promote the choral art in Illinois in this new, broader way. I am grateful for how our organization has fed my heart, mind, and soul in years past and look forward to giving back to our people and profession in the years to come!



As I write I am recalling our invigorating 2019 IL-ACDA Summer ReTreat at ISU. ReTreat headliners were Joe Miller from Westminster Choir College and Stacey V. Gibbs, the renowned arranger of Negro spirituals from Detroit. Having observed Joe's fine work for many years, it is no surprise that it was an inspiring experience to have him back in Illinois. He led the Director's Chorus in an engaging program of works by Howells, Bairstow, and others. He also gave the first performance of our Composition Contest winner, William Malpede, taught a masterclass of mid-career and collegiate conductors, and fielded questions about his approach to music-making and professional choices.

Stacey Gibbs led reading sessions of many of his own arrangements and other significant spiritual arrangements of our time. Stacey worked with an all-star high school/collegiate demonstration choir on style and performance. Additionally, his discussion of performance practice, history and style of spirituals revealed a truly comprehensive and thoughtful approach to the genre.

Both guests inspired creative vitality and musical thoughtfulness into all of the participants, and for the second consecutive year, the numbers of first-time and student attendees saw a large increase. Other highlights included Dr. Ramona Wis receiving the Harold Decker Award and Brandon Catt accepting the first-ever IL-ACDA Young Choral Director Award. As I began fall classes and rehearsals, I was once again energized and encouraged as I witnessed a new wave of enthusiasm among Illinois choral directors. Next year's ReTreat will be held on June 24-25, 2020 at Illinois State University with headliners Dr. Eugene Rogers (University of Michigan) and Jill Trinka (Kodály Master Teacher and Performer, and renowned Performer/Teacher/Arranger of American Folk Song from Coastal Carolina University).

Illinois ACDA has grown to include a number of other special events which serve all choral directors in the state. Throughout the year, we hold multiple festivals serving different interests – Show Choir Honor Choir, Join Voices, Chicago!, Treble Choir Festival (North and Central), Joyfest, Tenor/Bass Choir Festival, and the 2-Year College Festival are all planned for 2019-2020, with more events sure to be added.

Of particular interest is the IL-ACDA Fall Convention on October 25-26 at Wheaton College. This event will feature headliners Dr. Ramona Wis of North Central College, speech pathologist Lori Sonnenberg, and Kim Nazarian from New York Voices.

...continues on p 5 (Land of Lincoln)

# ELECTION RESULTS- PRESIDENT ELECT

Mary Evers was recently elected President-Elect of the Central Region. She assumed the office on July 1, at which time Karyl Carlson became President and Mark Munson became Vice President/Immediate Past President.

Mary is a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education at Michigan State University. She has conducted choirs in Canada, Germany, Japan, England, France, and the United States, and she has been a clinician for local choral festivals and for IMEA middle and elementary school "Circle the State with Song" festivals.

Mary started her teaching career in Hillsdale, Michigan, teaching elementary general music, middle school and high school vocal music. She has served as choir director/substitute organist at First Presbyterian Church in Hillsdale and at Acton United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. She has also been a member of the Indianapolis Children's Choir staff where she is the director of the Indianapolis Youth Chorale.

Mary currently teaches at Greenfield Central Junior High School. She taught at Greenfield-Central High School for 21 years, where she directed six vocal ensembles. Her choral groups have received superior marks at the Indiana State School Music Association Choral Organizational Festival, and she was the recipient of the 2013 Greenfield Central School Foundation's Robert Albano Educational Service Award.

...continues on p. 3 (Pres-Elect)

# STACE STEGMAN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

## Stace Stegman and His Namesake Award

A member of our Central Region will be honored in March 2020 as the ninth recipient of the Stace N. Stegman Award. Information about the award found on the website includes the following:



The Stace N. Stegman Award was established by the Central Region of the American Choral Directors Association in 2003 in memory of Stace N. Stegman (1946-2003), who gave tirelessly and selflessly in the Service of choral music. To the many conductors, teachers and performers who knew him as a colleague and friend, Stace will always stand for what is best in our profession. He demonstrated passion, knowledge, and integrity in his work and in his relationship with the Central Region.

By the time the award is presented at the Milwaukee conference, seventeen years will have passed since we lost Stace to esophageal cancer: seventeen years of music making, seventeen years of choral conferences, and seventeen years of new choral musicians nurtured right here in the Central Region of ACDA. Perhaps it is time to tell Stace's story again so that the younger members of our organization will know something about the man whose memory we honor as his namesake award is presented

Stace had a great love for choral music which may be traced to his days as a boy soprano at Grace Episcopal Church in his hometown of Sandusky, Ohio. Members "would recall the little boy's clear, bell-tone voice and his 'high c' that would occasionally soar from the choir loft at the end of a big anthem."2 He continued to sing in both the church and high school choirs after his voice changed to the rich, resonant one that many of us knew. As a high school student he developed an appreciation for jazz, listening to live performances of famous artists while working as a busboy in the hotel dining room at Cedar Point.

Between 1966 and 1972 Stace was employed by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) where he worked with space craft at Plum Brook Station, now the John H. Glenn Research Center. After his work at NASA ended as a result of funding cutbacks, he held a variety of positions including ones with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Stace married Sandra Frey in 1973 and subsequently worked in two family businesses in northwest Ohio. Stace and Sandra enjoyed adventurous travel and dining together. Stace was very supportive of Sandra while she worked as a public school teacher, when she started community choral ensembles, as she pursued a doctoral degree, and then eventually as she took positions at the University of Northern Iowa and Northern Illinois University. Although Sandra probably knew it before his passing, a cousin reminisced that she had heard Stace say that it was in making Sandra's dreams possible that he took most pleasure and joy.

*...continues on p 4 (Stegman)*

# PRESIDENT ELECT (CONTINUED)

Mary has sung with the professional Choral Chamber Ensemble Mon Choeur under the direction of Dr. Paul Krasnovsky and with the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir under the direction of Robert Porco and Dr. Eric Stark. She has also worked as a studio singer in Indianapolis.

Mary is a Past President of the Indiana Choral Directors Association, and she served the ACDA Central Region of ACDA as program chair for the 2014 and 2016 conferences.)





## STEGMAN (CONTINUED)

With the motto “Choral Music for the Choral Professional,” Musical Resources began operating in the basement of the Stegman home in Wauseon, Ohio in 1986. Before long the Stegman’s business moved to Toledo. Stace and his associate and friend, Dennis Blubaugh, were seen regularly at Musical Resources booths at regional and national ACDA conferences. Prominent choral conductors from this country and abroad promoted Musical Resources because of its commitment to high-quality literature and service. The business continues to thrive today and is a wonderful and significant part of Stace’s legacy.

Stace Stegman was a gentle giant in the choral profession. Always unassuming, he worked and contributed generously behind the scenes. Our Central Region was but one beneficiary of his generosity. He had a wonderful sense of humor and it was always fun to talk with him during a visit to Musical Resources. One time I asked him what he did with music that he received from publishers that was of shoddy quality. “Oh, that’s for lining the bird cages!” was his response.

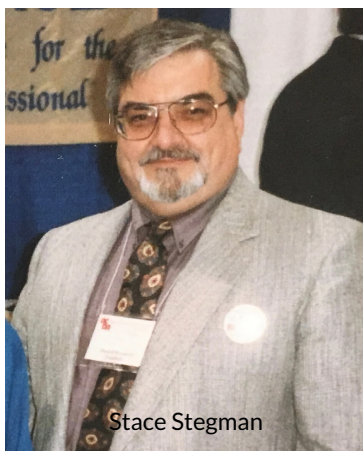
Perhaps no one can summarize what choral musicians know and appreciated about Stace better than Dennis Blubaugh who wrote:

To say that Stace Stegman loved choral music is a gross understatement. The success of Musical Resources was the result of this life-long love. His long association with the ACDA was his way of promoting the growth and performance of choral music. He was at his happiest at ACDA conferences where he could attend choral performances, help conductors find the exact literature they needed for a concert, and scope out the most interesting new choral music. I feel privileged to have been part of the growth of his successful business, which thrived because the customers who dealt with Stace sensed his genuine interest in them, their singers, and their choral programs.

The list of recipients of the Stace N. Stegman Award includes the names of some worthy, high-profile individuals, three of whom have even served as national president of ACDA. It also includes the names of some folks who, like Stace, have made great contributions in quiet ways from behind the scenes. The list and instructions for nominating individuals for the award are available at <https://www.acdacentral.org/stace-stegman-recipients>.

Members of the Central Region wishing to nominate worthy candidates for the award should do so by November 1.

Submitted by Mark Munson  
Bowling Green State University



## PHOTOS FROM INDIANA

The Indiana Choral Directors Association held its annual summer conference at the University of Indianapolis on June 24-26, 2019. Over 100 attendees enjoyed sessions led by headliners Lynne Gackle and Stacey V. Gibbs and presenters from around the state, the Indiana All-State Jazz Choir performance led by guest director Kerry Marsh, and a concert by the Circle City Sound barbershop chorus conducted by Theo Hicks.

Photos included below:



## GROWING YOUR PROGRAM FROM WITHOUT

I've been there. The new choir director in a small program with very little appreciation for vocal music or quality repertoire. No matter if it is your first or fourth job, it can really take the wind out of your sails to face students, parents, faculty, and administrators who are not as excited about choral music as you are. You have so many obstacles to surmount, not the least of which include increasing enrollment, choosing excellent literature that also fits your singers, and keeping them engaged. And most of the time, you are solely responsible for making all of this happen. Looking for free help? Become well-acquainted with ways in which you can use outside, supplemental opportunities to excite your singers. Here are a few with which I have found success over the years:



1.) **Bring singers to honor choir events and choral festivals.** It seems nearly every college and university hosts an honor choir or festival these days, many of which rely only on director recommendation for acceptance. Taking a quartet or double quartet of students to such an event can have a major influence on your entire program, as participants see other singers seriously invest their time, energy, and focus into creating a quality product. They are exposed to great literature, perhaps more difficult than what you are able to do at home, and come back jazzed-up to sound as good as the honor choir.

2.) **Partner with adult choirs in the area.** Most locales have at least some sort of community or church choir. Introduce yourself to the director, and ask whether your singers might be able to join on a concert, especially if that choir is performing a large work and needs extra singers. In my first job, I became friends with the director of the local Philharmonic, who programmed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and was looking for supplemental voices to round out the chorus. For many of them, it was the only time they would ever get to sing with a full orchestra (not to mention a work of such majesty), and so many of them left the concert walking on air at the thrill of being a part of something so magnificent.

...continues on p. 6 (Without)

## LAND OF LINCOLN (CONTINUED FROM P 2)

The Convention will also feature performing choirs, interest sessions, a Treble Honor Choir led by Angie Johnson, and a High School Honor Choir directed by Dr. Mary Hopper. For more information on all of these events and activities, see [www.IL-ACDA.org](http://www.IL-ACDA.org).

Before closing, I would like to thank my predecessor, Lee Kesselman of College of DuPage. Lee has been a shining choral star in Illinois (and beyond) for many years and has led IL-ACDA in exemplary fashion these past two years. Thanks, Lee, for sharing your gifts and experience with us, and for being a great mentor to me.

Best wishes to all this fall! Please let me and our board know how we may be of assistance to you. Illinois looks forward to Joining Voices with our Central and North Central Region colleagues in Milwaukee in March 2020!

Jeff Wilson, President, Illinois ACDA

## PRESIDENTIAL CORNER



Greetings and Happy Autumn!

I'm skipping winter and heading right into spring to our Central/North Central Conference! **JOINING VOICES**, is March 4 -7, 2020, in Milwaukee, WI. The Marcus Center is a spectacular venue in which to hear our fine auditioned choirs, as well as four honor choirs. There is an array of compelling interest sessions to attend, and there are unique activities for our collegiate members. **Joining Voices is all about the process of making connections both within and between singers from various walks of life. All aspects of the conference are designed to help choral conductors/teachers increase the richness of their work with singers.** The conference will represent the primary ACDA Repertoire and Resource areas—Youth, Collegiate, Lifelong, and Repertoire-Specific (Men's, Women's, Jazz, Ethnic, Contemporary/Commercial)—with a diverse, broad representation of performances and interest sessions that explore the potential for choral organizations and ensembles to create rich, rewarding, and meaningful connections between singers, audiences, and communities.

...continues next page

## WITHOUT (CONTINUED)

3.) **Organize trips to local concerts.** Expose students early on to musical happenings in the community by taking them on field trips to concerts. There are excellent choruses and orchestras in towns and cities all over the country, playing the greatest hits of our choral canon, as well as exciting new works. There is also a growing number of fabulous professional touring vocal ensembles in this country. Do not let an opportunity pass your students by to see any of these concerts when they happen nearby.

4.) **Get your singers invited to sing-along concerts.** It is becoming more and more common for communities to host sing-along concerts, especially during the summer or around the holidays. There is very little pressure for singers who attend these events; they go because they love it. This infectious opportunity for young singers to be a part of something so joyful can have a lasting impact on your program. Every other year, I take students to our city's annual Messiah Sing-Along, which features a professional orchestra and singers of all ages from local church and community choirs. I do not feel pressured to teach my students every note, they get to sing more than just "Hallelujah" and "And the Glory of the Lord", and they remember the experience for many years.

If this situation is yours—if you feel yourself fighting an uphill battle to establish a culture of excellent choral music—know that opportunities and experiences like these can only serve to work for you as you grow your program. I am not suggesting that it will happen overnight, nor can I promise that it will not take a lot of extra time and effort on your part, but I suspect that anyone who has made it this far understands that our job entails way more than 40 hours per week. While I know singers likely have a summative memory of our times together in the rehearsal room, reminiscences of former students tell me experiences like those above are the ones that will stick with them for years to come. You may be on your own as the teacher and director, but you are not really alone. Rely on this outside help every chance you get!

*Brandon Moss is Director of Choirs at Central Crossing High School in Grove City, OH and also serves as President of the Ohio Choral Directors Association.*

## AND FINALLY... WHAT IS THIS VENUE?



HINT: MILWAUKEE. REGISTER NOW.

## PRESIDENTIAL (CONTINUED)

In addition to celebrating our past traditions, the conference will feature ensembles and programs that represent underserved populations and/or diversities. Further, the conference will highlight innovative choral programming and practices. The North Central region president, Rhonda Fuelberth, and I hope you will attend!

Best wishes,  
Karyl Carlson  
Director of Choral Activities  
Illinois State University

ACDA Central Region  
President

## IDEAS?

I am honored to serve this organization which serves our industry as interim editor, but I am also very interested in making sure that this is the most relevant medium for us. If you have insights on blogs, social media, or other platforms by which we might stay better in touch and in tune with one another, by all means, write or call anytime.

My goal would be to produce two of these a year, so I will go ahead and give a heads-up that Issue no. 2 for this academic year will be in Winter. If you have updates, ideas, or articles before then, please email me.

Deadline for Winter Edition will be January 23rd.

--Chris Ludwa