ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS

REGION FOUR HISTORY

1986 - 2014

Authors
(Regional Presidents)

Rodney Gehrke
Gregory Peterson
Carole Lea Arenson
C. Marshall Bowen
Wyant Morton
Sandra Tietjen
Jerry Gunderson
Norma Aamodt-Nelson
Joy Berg
Kim Cramer

Compiled November 2014
Carole Lea Arenson, Newsletter Editor (1989 - 2014)
Erik Whitehill, Layout Editor
As I was winding down my last year as Region Four Newsletter Editor an idea for a written “History of Region Four” came to mind!

Since I never do anything totally by myself, I began to contemplate who to ask for help. Of course, the obvious answer was our past presidents! Before I began contacting them, I pieced together a “bare bones” Region Four Timeline using the back issues of our newsletter for the correct data. The four binders filled with newsletters going back to 1989 were very helpful. I then contacted our former presidents and they graciously said yes. I asked them for two things. First, proof the TIMELINE making corrections as needed and secondly, to write their own comments about their time as president. The “Region Four History” is a document with two parts:

1. **Historic Timeline**
2. **Presidents Reflections**

We have had eleven regional presidents since 1986. In order they are:

1. Rodney Gehrke
2. Gregory Peterson
3. Carole Lea Arenson
4. C. Marshall Bowen
5. Wyant Morton
6. James Holloway
7. Sandra Tietjen
8. Jerry Gunderson
10. Joy Berg
11. Kim Cramer (current)

Their “reflections” make an interesting insight as to how our region developed and grew over the years.

Erik Whitehill, who has been our layout editor for the newsletter since 2004, has added his magic to make the document a timeline helping us to visualize the passage of time from 1986 to 2015.

In organizations, as in life, it is difficult to understand “Who You Are” without the back story. I believe the Region Four History is not only a good read, but an historical document for each of us.

Blessings,

Carole Lea Arenson
Region Four Newsletter Editor 1989 - 2014
ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS REGION FOUR  
HISTORIC TIMELINE

1980’s  

1986  
First Biennial National Conference in Seattle, WA

1987  

August: Constituting Convention of ALCM National held in August at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN  
Elected Officers: President Rodney Gehlke, Vice-President David Cherwien, Secretary/Treasurer Cheryl Arnold

1988  

May: Officers: Gregory M. Peterson assumes Vice Presidency when David Cherwien leaves for Chicago

October: Elected Officers: Gregory M. Peterson, Carole Lea Arenson, Patricia Churchley

1989  

August Officers: Carole Lea Arenson (assumes Pres), C. Marshall Bowen (Interim VP), Patricia Churchley  
November: First publication of regional newsletter with Carole Lea Arenson as editor and Patricia Churchley in secretary/treasurer’s position to maintain the membership list, mail the newsletter, plus serve as a working treasurer. Newsletter size: 4 pages to be published quarterly

1990’s  

1990  
2nd Biennial Regional  
June 10-13 Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV  
Through the Church the Song Goes On  
Chair: Gregory M. Peterson  
Keynoters: Marty Haugen, Carole Lea Arenson

October Elected Officers: Carole Lea Arenson, C. Marshall Bowen, Patricia Churchley

Newsletter: Four issues with Carole, Patricia, Marshall and Kerry Lewis in 1990 and 1991

1991  

ALCM at ACDA (March 13 - 16)  
ALCM Booth at the American Choral Director Association’s national conference in Phoenix was made possible by the diligence and technical skills offered by Marshall Bowen. Choral pieces were submitted from our region with extra help from Carolyn Jennings, St. Olaf College and gathered by Carole Lea Arenson. Using a Mac SE30 with an Apple laser printer and a database program called Microsoft File, Marshall could print out a list of appropriate choral anthems on request based on choice of season, choir configuration or difficulty. ALCM sponsored a Friday Night Banquet featuring a panel discussion by Mark Hayes, Carl Schalk and K. Lee Scott moderated by Phoenix ALCM member Mark Francis. ACDA took notice of ALCM!

1992  

3rd Biennial Regional  
July 5-8 California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA  
The Singing Congregation  
Chair: C. Marshall Bowen  
Keynoters: Dale Wood and Paul Westermeyer

October Elected Officers: Carole Lea Arenson, C. Marshall Bowen, Randy Knutson

Newsletter: Four issues in both 1992 and 93 with Carole, Marshall, Randy, Layout Editor Jon Hurty, Production David Hein and fifteen reporters at large until December 1995 when the newsletter gets a face lift as Erik Floan becomes the new layout editor.

1994  

4th Biennial Regional  
July 17-20 University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
Come to Us, Creative Spirit  
Chair: Margaret Harms  
Keynoter: John Bell, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland

October Elected Officers: C. Marshall Bowen, Carlene Rudnick, Randy Knutson

Newsletter: Continues with Carole Lea Arenson as editor with Marshall, Randy, Layout Editor Jon Hurty, Production David Hein and fifteen reporters at large until December 1995 when the newsletter gets a face lift as Erik Floan becomes the new layout editor.
1990’s (cont.)

1996

5th Biennial Regional
July 21-24 Concordia University, Irvine, CA
*Doing it All – Music for Worship*
Chairs: C. Marshall Bowen
Keynoters: Michael Burkhardt, Dori Erwin Collins, Timothy Lull
**October Elected Officers:** Wyant Morton, Sandra Tietjen, Kim Cramer
**Newsletter:** Carole Lea Arenson and Erik Floan, Laout Editor are joined by Wyant Morton and writers to publish 4 newsletters a year.

1998

6th Biennial Regional
July 26-29 Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
*Meal, Music & Menu: Balancing Appetite & Nourishment*
Chair: James D. Holloway
Keynoters: Gail Ramshaw, Samuel Torvend, David Wold
Conference costs: $185 (members), $260 (non-member)
**October Elected Officers:** James D. Holloway, Sandra Tietjen, Kim Cramer
**Newsletter:** 10th Anniversary with Carole Lea Arenson, Erik Floan, Kim Cramer, James Holloway and writers

2000’s

2000

7th Biennial Regional
July 30-August 5 Children’s Choral Camp preparing for video recording:
*Empowered to Join the Song*
August 2-5 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
*Empowered to Join the Song*
Chair: Carole Lea Arenson
Keynoters: Anton Armstrong, Jim Holloway
**October Elected Officers:** James D. Holloway, Sandra Tietjen, Jerry Gunderson
**Newsletter:** Carole, Erik Floan, James Holloway, Kim Cramer/Jerry Gunderson with a mailing service needed to accommodate an increasing membership

2001

May Officers: Sandra Tietjen (assumes Pres), Stephen Crippen (Interim VP), Jerry Gunderson
**Newsletter:** Nancy Albrecht is the new layout editor and due to rising costs, the newsletter pulls back to three issues per year.
Note: The *Empowered to Join the Song* video is released after being recorded at the regional in Tucson, AZ with Anton Armstrong and Carole Lea Arenson directing the choral camp of 4th – 6th graders singers. Carolyn Jennings composed the theme song, *God Made the Song*, for the project. Gregory Peterson, ALCM’s national president, gave much needed support to the project. **Show-N-Tell Productions** in Tempe, AZ filmed and mastered the final product. David Hejn and Carole were co-producers.

2004

9th Biennial Regional
July 9-12 Glorieta Conference Center, Glorieta, NM
*Come Away to a Quiet Place*
Chair: Jerry Gunderson
Keynoters: Marilyn Omerick, David Hein, Scott Weidler, Charles Cornner
At the July 11th Region IV meeting the membership voted to continue the newsletter in print rather than have it available only in a digital format on the ALCM website.
**October Elected Officers:** Jerry Gunderson, Erik Whitehill, Zita Weyland
**Newsletter:** Carole Lea Arenson, Erik Whitehill, Jerry Gunderson and writers
Note: *Empowered to Join the Song* is re-mastered from video to DVD with an additional CD ROM of supplementary resources for children and released in the fall of 2004.

2002

8th Biennial Regional
August 4-7 Lutheran Church of Honolulu, Honolulu, Hawaii
*A New Creation Come to Life*
Chairs: Stephen Crippen, Katherine Crosier, Jerry Gunderson, Sandra Tietjen
Keynoters: Mark Glaeser, Samuel Torvend
**October Elected Officers:** Jerry Gunderson, Christine Rogers, Charles Cornner
**Newsletter:** Carole Lea Arenson continues as editor, Erik Whitehill is the new the new layout editor giving the newsletter another “face lift”, plus Jerry Gunderson and writers
Note: The region four video *Empowered to Join the Song* wins the 2002 “Award of Distinction” from the Videographer’s Awards. With supplies of the original video running low, a second printing is considered as a DVD. All proceeds continue to go to the national ALCM.
2006

10th Biennial Regional
July 7-10 Seattle University, Seattle, WA
An Epiphany in the Emerald City
Chair: Arletta Anderson
Keynoters: Susan Briehl, Paul Hoffman, Samuel Torvend

October Elected Officers: Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Karla Devine, Zita Weyland

Newsletter: Carole Lea Arenson, Erik Whitehill, Norma Aamodt-Nelson and writers

2008

11th Biennial Regional
June 27-30 St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA
Seasons of the Church – Seasons of Life
Chairs: Marty Schaefer, Randy Knutson
Keynoter: Gail Ramshaw

October Elected Officers: Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Karla Devine, Carol Churchill

Newsletter: First digital newsletter debuts with the 2008 Fall Edition on the ALCM website although the newsletter continues to be printed and mailed for the next year. Carole Lea Arenson continues as editor, Erik Whitehill as layout editor, Norma Aamodt-Nelson and writers

2010’s

2010

12th Biennial Regional
July 11-15 Trinity Lutheran Church, Boulder, CO
Faith: A Compass for Leaders
Chair: Carole Lea Arenson
Keynoters: Ted Peters, Gregory Peterson, Sally Morgenthaler

October Elected Officers: Joy Berg, Katherine Crosier, Carol Churchill

Newsletter: The Spring 2010 issue of our regional newsletter appears for the first time in ONLY a digital format on the ALCM website. Erik Whitehill has redone the “look” to bring out the color and design possible with a totally digital format. The content immediately increases to 15 pages and includes many more photos. Another first was a fourteen page “Region IV 2010 Gathering Special Edition” reflecting on the July Boulder Gathering. Carole Lea Arenson continues as editor, Erik Whitehill as layout editor, Joy berg, Kathy Crosier, past-president Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Randy Knutson and other writers. The series, “Ask a Pro”, with Bradley Ellingboe and Gregory Peterson premieres in the Summer 2011 edition.

2012

13th Biennial Regional
Behold I Tell You a Mystery:
Telling God’s Story in the 21st Century
July 23-25 California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA
Chair: Joy Berg
Keynoters: Mary Canniff-Kuhn, René Clausen, Guy Erwin

October Elected Officers: Kim Cramer, Katherine Crosier, Randy Knutson

Newsletter: Carole Lea Arenson as editor, Erik Whitehill as layout editor, Kim Cramer, Katherine Crosier, Randy Knutson, and writers

Our newsletter celebrates the 25th Anniversary of being a continuously published resource for Region 4.

Note: Region IV officially becomes Region 4

2014

14th Biennial Regional
June 15-18 Concordia University/St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Portland, OR
Emerging:
Living and Serving on the Hinge of Change
Chair: William F. Kuhn
Keynoter: Paul Hoffman

October Elected Officers: Kim Cramer, Kyle Johnson, Walter Krueger

Newsletter: Carole Lea Arenson as editor, Erik Whitehill as layout editor, Kim Cramer, Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Katherine Crosier, and writers

2015

January

Newsletter: Carole Lea Arenson as founding editor and Erik Whitehill as layout editor, turn over responsibilities to Darren Hochstedler as the newsletter’s 2nd editor and Katherine Crosier as the layout editor.
Rodney Gehrke  
1st Region IV President (1986 – 1988)

I remember very little about those early days. I do remember the Berkeley conference was co-chaired by Pastors Lorn Brown and Lucy Kolin. I do know the primary heavy-weight was the Rev. Dr. Victor Gold, professor of Old Testament at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. I served with David Cherwien as vice president and Cheryl Arnold as secretary/treasurer.

Gregory Peterson  
2nd Region IV President (1988 - 1989)

When David Cherwien left First Lutheran of Richmond Beach, in Seattle, WA to take a new post at St. Luke’s Lutheran in Park Ridge, IL in 1988, I was asked to fill in as vice president. This was just before a face-to-face meeting of the ALCM Board of Directors. I began my tenure of Board leadership with a quick trip to Chicago and found myself ensconced in the heady discussions of this fledgling association. We had no money – any of us – in those days and so the members of the Board were crammed like sardines into the guest house of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. I think there may have been all of two bathrooms for the whole lot of us! I remember it as an exciting time for the ALCM, and as a young, new church music professional in the wild Northwest, was eager for the camaraderie, ideas and mutual support from all quadrants of the country.

Following the election at the 1988 Regional in Berkeley, CA, I became the 2nd Region IV President with Carole Lea Arenson as vice president and Patricia Churchley as secretary/treasurer. In the spring of 1989, following four years as Minister of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, WA (Tacoma), I made the decision to pursue a DMA with Delores Bruch at the University of Iowa and moved to Iowa City that August. As vice president, Carole Lea Arenson assumed the presidency having already agreed to chair the 1990 Regional Conference in Las Vegas. I thought it was only fitting we swap roles and so I took over chairing the conference. I remember the trip I made in November of 1989 for the on-site meeting in Las Vegas and the generous hospitality of Denise Griffin who put me up in her home and even let me tool around town in her Jeep! It all seemed surreal to me.

The fitting theme Through the Church the Song Goes On was developed from the last phrase of stanza 3 of the hymn “Holy God, We Praise Your Name.”

The following taken from the April 1990 front page of the Region IV Newsletter:

**High Stakes This June in Las Vegas**

Gregory M. Peterson, conference chair

“Vegas calls more than high rollers, was the headline in a travel article in the Cedar Rapids Iowa Gazette. I thought to myself, ‘This is most certainly true.’ Vegas is calling Lutheran church musicians to come to the second biennial Region IV conference, Through the Church the Song Goes On, June 10-12, 1990. This practical conference for the working church musicians offers renewal through music and liturgy…”

“Some of you may be wondering ‘why all this emphasis on Vegas and what does it have to do with me, a humble Lutheran church musician?’ Two years ago at the regional conference in Berkeley it was decided the next regional should be in the Southwest to give the ALCM visibility in this part of the region, especially since we did meet in California and had been in Seattle in 1987. Las Vegas was chosen because it is an inexpensive place…and, more importantly, the Lutheran community in Las Vegas was eager and ready to help with such an endeavor.”

Kay Christenson and Denise Griffin served as “On Site” chairs. We had 62 registrants, which was double what we had in the 1989 Berkeley regional. Keynoters: Marty Haugen (premiering his new liturgy Now the Feast and Celebration and his new musical Tales of Wonder, performed by Las Vegas children and adults) and Carole Lea Arenson (bringing the 60-voice King of Glory Folk Choir of High School/College singers) plus six Skillshops, two Panel Discussions, and several worship services. It was a high energy and fulfilling conference.

Note: Gregory Peterson served as Region III President from 1994-1996 and as the National ALCM President from 1997–2001. During his time as National President the video Empowered to Join the Song was recorded and produced in Region IV for national distribution.
As Greg has stated, I assumed the presidency when he left the region. Luckily Marshall Bowen agreed to become the interim vice president. Together with Patricia Churchley, we were a good team. Being the Region IV President meant I now also served on the National ALCM Board. 1989 was the year everyone agreed to publish a regional newsletter in all four regions. I dutifully gathered and published our first newsletter in the fall of 1989. It had three pages written by the three regional officers. The fourth page had an ALCM Membership Form on the bottom with a top half containing only Patricia’s return address with adequate space to attach a mailing label. It was the secretary/treasurer’s job to do the mailing. Patricia was very adept and always had the most up to date membership list. Since she also was treasurer she had the funds to mail the newsletter. The Region IV membership numbers were not very large.

Adding new members was the mantra in those early years. Those of us in the region had agreed regionals were one of the answers to increasing our membership. I was going to chair the next one scheduled for Las Vegas. But when Greg left the region, we did a swap and he took over the task. (See Gregory Peterson’s notes for more information).

In 1990 we were happy to report 100 new members had been added and listed in our newsletter. The practice of welcoming new members and listing them in the newsletter continues to this day.

One of the positive features about our region is the generous and sharing nature we have. And so it was that Kerry Lewis stepped forth to help with our newsletter in the early 90s. Thanks Kerry.

The first time “Stuff That Works” appeared was at the 1991 American Choral Directors Association national conference in Phoenix, AZ. We had over 600 choral titles cross referenced in a variety of ways. Many people supplied us with their “best of the best”. I remember Carolyn Jennings was most helpful with her many choral suggestions. Marshall Bowen, Region IV Vice President, undertook the huge task of putting all the titles into a searchable form. By using his trustworthy computer he could literally search by arrangement, theme, season, difficulty and more (See Marshall Bowen’s notes for more information). Since those early years our region’s newsletter has added more choral suggestions, plus organ, instrumental and hand bell pieces recommended by our talented members under the title “Stuff That Works”.

It was a joy to meet all the new members coming in who actually found their way to our regionals! Margaret Harms from Calgary, Alberta and Carl Cherland from Regina, Saskatchewan came on the scene and I interviewed both of them for the January 1991 newsletter. Region IV appreciates our Canadian ALCMers.

1992 found us at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA for our 3rd Biennial Regional. Marshall Bowen did an excellent job as chair. We had a “4th of July Hollywood Bowl Spectacular” which was just plain fun. The theme was The Singing Congregation with keynoters Paul Westermeyer from Luther Seminary and Dale Wood, a well known composer with over six million copies of his works sold. Dorms were available on the California Lutheran University (CLU) campus from $10 a night for a quad to $40 for a single. Tuition was $85 for members and $135 for non-members, which included a new membership. Worship featured two new liturgies by Dale Wood and Marshall Bowen, a Conference Choir directed by Dale Wood, organists Kathy Eggleston and Michael Burkhardt, plus an evening of Hymns of the Church Year with campus organist Carl Bertram Swanson and the Lutheran Radio Chorale directed by Howard Sonstegard in the then new Samuelson Chapel with the 39 rank Steiner-Reck organ on the CLU campus. Eleven of us led workshops so everyone had lots of choices.

At our business meeting we were pleased to accept the invitation to come to Calgary, Alberta in 1994 with Margaret Harms as our chair.

The 1992 elections were held: I returned as president and Marshall Bowen as vice president. The new secretary/treasurer was Randy Knutson.

Margaret Harms did a great job as chair and pulled many people together to host the 1994 4th Biennial Regional at the University of Calgary in Calgary. Committee members included: Donald Christianson, Larry Kochendorfer, Jane Kristenson, Loy Krywo as registrar, Brent McHan and Richard Stetson. The theme was Come to Us, Creative Spirit. Keynoters included two Canadians: Michael Pryse and Donald McLeod. The other keynoter was John Bell from the Iona Community in Glasgow, Scotland. I had gotten to know him earlier and knew he wanted to come back to US since he was not well-known in the early 1990s. He was a great addition. John Bell has a great curiosity about people and harbors no fear. He asked Margaret, “Where do the poorest folk live in Calgary?” When she told him he put on his oldest clothes, left all valuables in the dorm and went out to explore for the night. None of us knew he was doing this until he came back. When we asked him why he did it he simply said, “Everyone, including the poorest of the poor, need to hear about Jesus.” We all were very glad he came back in one piece! But we should not have been so surprised since he had a history of working with teenagers and disenchanted adults to find ways to communicate faith in contemporary contexts.

As a pre-conference event, Margaret arranged for us the opportunity to witness the famous Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. It was a real treat to see the Chuckwagon and Grandstand show. It was quite a lavish spectacle! And the large white cowboy hat she gave me has come in handy from time to time. (con’t. on next page)
Margaret wrote about the upcoming regional in the 1994 Spring Newsletter: “Worship services are planned using a variety of liturgies, styles and spaces from the Festival opening led by the Luther Bach Choir from Regina with Carl Cherland directing to Sandra Kerr as organist at Christ Church Cathedral to a Communion Service using Setting 1 from the Lutheran Book of Worship to Morning Prayers led by feature musician John Bell at the Olympic Volunteer Center to the Closing Eucharist based on Marty Haugen’s Holy Communion Creation Setting. From instruments to the gift of the children’s choir led by Marilyn Comer and the Conference Choir led by Jon Hurty, the worship services will blend the old and the new and inspire us as we pray, ‘Come to Us, Creative Spirit’.

The early 90s were heady days with so many of us having a great passion for the work needing to be done. I was fortunate to serve on the national board along with other regional presidents who cared deeply for their own region and was especially impressed by Jim Rindelaub, Mark Glaeser and Michael Krenz. We would stay in touch and often bring regional concerns to the national board meetings. Now all three of them continue to accomplish amazing things!

Since 1994 I have chaired two Biennial Regionals (7th in 2000 and 12th in 2010), assisted with many other regionals and always helped with publicity for them all. It has given me many opportunities to know so many of our members.

As the newsletter continued gathering steam into the 1990s, we decided to add an “At Large” reporting staff representing the many areas in our large extended regions. They were to contribute articles as possible and stay in contact with members. Also they were to seek out and welcome new members. We had fifteen on the “At Large” staff and this worked for a few years. We then added the Roving Editor position. Our first Roving Editor, beginning in winter 1995 and until fall of 1996, was Steven Hoffman from Laramie, WY. His assignment was to scout out newsworthy items plus interview some of our interesting members. William Wells from New Port Beach, CA took over in late 1996 and stayed in the position until 2004. Well done Bill! After that we have had individuals serving for an issue or more and it has remained this way until 2014. I must add a big “thank you” to all our regional officers and former officers who helped along the way. Every issue contained a column “From the President” to keep us informed about our region and our national. Norma Aamodt-Nelson and Randy Knutson come to mind as remarkable contributors over many years after their terms of office. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the Region Four Newsletter possible!

After having been involved with publishing the newsletter since 1989, I will turn over the Region 4 Newsletter Editor’s role to Darren Hochstedler from Everett, WA in January 2015. Erik Whitehill, who has been our creatively talented layout editor since 2002 and the one who ushered us into the digital age, will at the same time turn over this position to Katherine Crosier.

Thanks to all of you for a marvelous enriching experience and the many friendships over these last twenty five years!

C. Marshall Bowen
4th Region IV President (1994 – 1996)

I first served as Region IV Vice President 1989-94, with the effective, solid Carole Lea Arenson as President. In 1994 I was elected president and served until 1996 with Carlene Rudnick as Vice President and Randy Knutson as Secretary/Treasurer.

My time as an officer in Region IV of the ALCM was characterized by the growth of the organization from its earliest beginnings to young maturity, and the amazing digital evolution which enabled us all to be more connected than ever.

The early times of ALCM had modest gatherings for regional conferences. The first regional conference in Berkeley was well done, though mostly attended by local ALCM members and a few intrepid people who could get there easily. As the word spread about the quality of the conferences, people were coming from all over Region IV as well as the other three regions. National conferences, newsletters and publications became more sophisticated as we became more established. Kudos to Carole for her excellent work with the Region IV newsletter, which she has continued to edit for these 25 years!

Was there ever a time before email and cell phones? I was what my ALCM friend Michael Krentz calls “an early adapter”. I was instrumental in getting the ALCM officers into something called “Lutherlink”. Remember modems? We could log on and get messages through “Lutherlink”. This enabled us to transmit reports, letters, and other documents without needing to mail them. Sounds easy, but it was actually pretty buggy. Everyone was happy to give it up in favor of email as technology continued to progress.

Another computer innovation on my watch was a database of choir anthems called “Stuff That Works”. The idea was to catalog everyone’s favorite anthems which they felt worked in their church. It could be cross-referenced for season, voices and degree of difficulty, for instance: Advent anthems, SATB and “easy”. Then we could give you a selection of anthems for further research. At ALCM conferences and at the 1991 ACDA national in Phoenix, we printed these items right on the spot with the computer and, wow, a “laser printer!” You left with “Stuff that Works!”

(con’t. next page)
The 1996 regional held in Irvine, CA at Concordia University had the theme, *Doing it all – Music for Worship*. It was planned by Jon Hurty and Sylvia Lueken to be an opportunity to experience the wide variety of worship music being used in the west. Though Jon left the Region IV before the conference took place, we realized his vision with worship music of all kinds from contemporary praise music to traditional. Music leaders were Dori Erwin Collins and Michael Burkhardt with Dr. Timothy Lull wrapping up the conference with his concept of “big tent” Lutheranism.

As my role as a church musician changed, I was happy to hand off the presidency to Wyant Morton. It was a privilege and an honor to have served the organization in its formative years. More recently, I was also happy to chair the Seattle 2011 national conference. I hope to see ALCM continue to thrive!

**Wyant Morton**

*5th Region IV President (1996 – 1998)*

It was my honor and pleasure to serve as President of Region IV of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) working with and for the fine people in our thirteen Western states and three Canadian provinces. I served with Sandra Tietjen as Vice President and Kim Cramer as Secretary/Treasurer.

There were two fantastic regional conferences during my term. In 1996, our Region IV Conference was held at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. It was the 1998 conference, however, which I remember the most vividly. This is because of the incredible leadership of Dr. James Holloway who chaired the regional at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma, WA where he was a member of the music faculty.

I remember those months surrounding the conference like they were yesterday and this is for two reasons. Those of us who knew Jim will never forget the shock of hearing about his death from a gunman on the PLU campus. It still seems impossible that such a thing could have happened to anyone, let alone Jim. But it is the brilliant mind and kind spirit of Jim Holloway I remember the most and cherish. I have never met anyone as smart as Jim, yet he possessed the rare ability to meet people where they were. He was equally at home with scholars and common folk. And, of course, Jim was an incredible organist and musician.

Below is a quote from Jim written in July 1998 as the Region IV officers were in the final planning stages of our conference and were working on recruiting volunteers. It seems to me Jim’s words are as important today as they were when he wrote them almost 20 years ago.

“Volunteer professional organizations, like any group of valued human beings, need a special sensitivity to those who give generously of their unremunerated time to make their regional events prosper. We can all help make sure our volunteers have a positive experience and feel valued by attending to larger dictates of civility, courtesy and camaraderie.”

**James (Jim) Holloway**

*6th Region IV President (1998 - 2001)*

James (Jim) Holloway chaired the 1998 Regional held at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma, WA where he was a faculty member. Sandra Tietjen served as registrar. The theme: *Meal, Music & Menu: Balancing Appetite & Nourishment*. The keynoters: Gail Ramshaw and Samuel Torvend. Jim arranged for a Monday evening at St. Mark’s Cathedral to hear the Compline Choir directed by Peter Hallock and a Wednesday evening hearing the Stabat Mater by Pergolesi performed by the Tacoma Girls’ Choir. Housing was available at PLU for $15.25 per night. Early registration was $185 for members and $260 for non-members.

In 1998 Jim was elected as President, Sandra Tietjen as Vice President, and Kim Cramer as Secretary/Treasurer. In 2000 Jim and Sandra were re-elected and Jerry Gunderson came on aboard as the new Secretary/Treasurer.

The 2000 regional *Empowered to Join the Song!* was held in Tucson, AZ with a 4th-6th grade choral camp beginning a few days prior to the conference itself. Keynoters: Anton Armstrong and James Holloway. Conference committee: Marshall Bowen, Kim Cramer, Jerry Gunderson, David Hein, Helen Thoenes, Erik Whitehill and Carole Lea Arenson as chair. Jim Holloway was an integral part of the event as keynoter, organist, workshop leader, plus his official role as president.

Jim’s “From the President” column in the newsletter was always one of enlightenment and encouragement. In his Spring 2001 column, he wrote: “The focus is a relationship with God. Artistry, theology and liturgy are important and central, but the goal of all our work is to encourage a relationship with God. Music making is relational/ the demeanor and method we bring to creating music for worship models the ultimate relationship we encourage between God and the soul of the believer.”

The next issue, Summer 2001, had this tribute: “We Remember with Gratitude and Respect Our Beloved President, Dr. James Holloway. It is with a heavy heart that we must tell the news that Dr. James Holloway, our Region IV President, was the victim of a random and tragic killing on the Pacific Lutheran University Campus on Thursday, May 17th. The deranged killer was unknown to Jim…. Blessed be the memory of God’s humble servant, Dr. James Holloway!”

The *Empowered to Join the Song* video was mostly filmed at the Tucson regional and released in 2001 with this tribute: “Dedicated to the life work and vision of Dr. James Holloway.”
Reflections by a Region IV ALCM Unelected and Unexpected President

The May, 2001 tragic and untimely death of ALCM Regional President and Pacific Lutheran University faculty member and dear friend Dr. James D. Holloway brought me to the unintended role as Region IV President.

During the course of the 2001 Biennial Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, Region IV attendees met to discuss potential plans for Region IV, at which time Carole Lea Arenson proposed Region IV stay the course and plan its 2002 Regional Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Were it not for the generous contributions of shared leadership from Stephen Crippen, Jerry Gunderson, Carl and Kathy Crosier the convention would have faltered. I was then and am yet most grateful for the assistance of all the ALCM saints who in prayer and with great personal sacrifice contributed to this successful and memorable island convention. My own Soli Deo Gloria reflections continue to this present day.

Jerry Gunderson
8th Region IV President (2002 - 2006)

When ALCM held its Constituting Convention in 1986, I was serving as Director of Music at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fridley, MN. I honestly do not remember if I heard anything about the organization in its early years. If I did, there was no personal connection or invitation to “draw me in.” Not long after I began my position as Director of Music at All Saints Lutheran in Phoenix in 1993, I was contacted by Carole Lea Arenson, who welcomed me to Arizona and encouraged me to join ALCM. I was soon attending regional and national conferences, and was eventually asked to be part of a planning team for the 2000 conference in Tucson. What a great experience to work with colleagues in music ministry, and to develop close friendships with them as we prepared for the conference. Under the theme Empowered to Join the Song, we held a children’s music camp within the conference at University of Arizona and enjoyed inspiring and creative worship with these children in leadership. One of my favorite memories from the conference was the Mariachi-led worship service, held on a beautiful evening at the San Xavier del Bac Mission outside of Tucson. The doors and windows were open, we could hear coyotes and owls in the distance, and we were visited by a stray dog who wandered into the chapel. The Mariachi worship service must have been irresistible!

I was elected to serve as Region IV Secretary/Treasurer just in time to serve on the next planning committee, and we had this crazy idea to have our 2002 conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. While this turned out to limit attendance a bit, we did welcome some new members from Hawaii. All who attended the conference were treated to some wonderful Hawaiian hospitality at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. We were blessed by the gifts of the Lutheran Church of Honolulu musicians Carl and Kathy Crosier, and in particular, I fondly remember their beautiful Vespers service which featured a men’s chant choir processing around the room while singing and carrying candles. The tropical island atmosphere was certainly a wonderful bonus, plus an evening Luau and various social gatherings gave us ample opportunities to get to know one another. Hawaii was a risky conference location, but it worked out very well, and we had an unforgettable experience as we explored the theme A New Creation Comes to Life.

In a weak moment, I agreed to be placed on the ballot for Region IV President, and soon found myself in this somewhat intimidating position of responsibility. However, I found that it was not so bad! National board meetings were actually interesting and enjoyable, and the board members were just as friendly and welcoming as the Region IV ALCM members I had come to know over the years. I served as chairperson for the 2004 regional with planning team: Carole Lea Arenson, Priscilla Brower, Charles Corrner, Chris Rogers and Erik Whitehill. I was again impressed by all those who worked so hard to create another fine event. We chose another beautiful venue, the Glorieta Conference Center in the high country of New Mexico, just east of Santa Fe. Our theme was Come Away to a Quiet Place, and we again enjoyed the presence and leadership of children, as well as the creative gifts and leadership of several of our ALCM members. The culturally rich city of Santa Fe provided a great place for an evening “on the town”.

I was re-elected for a second term as President in 2004, but by this time I was ready for a break from conference planning. Fortunately a very strong leadership team emerged in the Seattle area for our 2006 conference, An Epiphany in the Emerald City. Committee members were: Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Beth Ann Bonnecroy, Carol Churchill as registrar, Lynn Ogren and Arletta Anderson as chair. Once again, another absolutely beautiful Region IV conference location, and we enjoyed some wonderful worship and concert venues and a very inspiring group of keynote speakers: Susan Briehl, Samuel Torvend and Paul Hoffman. Another fond memory from this conference was an “island adventure” one pleasant and sunny afternoon, which included a picnic, an organ recital, and an outdoor worship service at an amphitheater.

After all these years of great experiences in ALCM, it is difficult to decide what should be in this article, but more than anything, I value the friendships with my colleagues in worship and music ministry. (con’t on next page)
The gifts, talents and wisdom among our members are, of course, incredible and I have learned so much from so many. But more than that, I find big-hearted and welcoming people, filled with faith and passion to serve Christ and his church. Through all of you, God provides me with inspiration and renewal, and so I conclude with just this... Thank you!

Norma Aamodt-Nelson  
9th Region IV President (2006 - 2010)

It was an honor to serve as President of Region IV. Although I was born and raised in the Northwest, much of my career had been spent in the Midwest where I served as Region III President, so returning to Region IV was “coming home” in a variety of ways. When one participates on the ALCM board representing the region, you have the opportunity to work on policies and procedures which make an impact and certainly one of the challenges we faced was budgetary in order to plan for and sustain the salary of the executive director.

I also remember the pride I felt on behalf of the region that we were the only one with a regional newsletter. This is, of course, thanks to our faithful editor and her team for their excellent work over the years! Each year the region was commended for continuing this valuable tool; our region, of course, spans the greatest distances and having the newsletter helps to keep us connected in our various ministries.

I served two terms with Karla Devine as Vice President and with Zita Weyland for the first term and Carol Church for my last term of office as Secretary/Treasurer.

Two regionals during Norma’s tenure: 2008 Regional in San Francisco, CA with theme: Seasons of the Church – Seasons of Life. Keynoter: Gail Ramshaw. Aaron David Miller led the Hymn Festival, Global Music by Carol and Tom Parmeter Dyer, Choral concert by Soli Deo Gloria directed by Allen H. Simon, Organ concert by Rodney Gehrke, workshops, dinner cruise with The Sterling Trio and more. There was a Post-conference Organ (and Carillon) Tour with David Hunsberger.

Conference committee: Kathryn Beck, Live Beck, Jacquie Berlein, David Hunsberger, Ronald Koch, Gretchen Sauer, Brian Stoffregen, Rita Weyland as registrar and Randy Knutson and Marty Schaefer as chairs.

2010 Gathering was in Boulder, CO with theme: Faith: A Compass for Leaders. Keynoters were Ted Peters, Gregory Peterson, and Sally Morgenthaler who spoke separately and also came together for discussion in a forum setting. Bradley Ellingboe conducted local singers plus the gathering singers for a Choral Evensong. Later he led us all in a “Sing!” (Alice Parker style). Also included were two organ recitals: Gregory Peterson and Joyce Shupe Kull, focus selections, concluding worship by local musicians under Timothy Synder using the

St. Thomas Mass, a memorable Chautauqua Concert which was reminiscent of another era and much more. There was a “Pre-Gathering” for children of the Boulder area. College students were offered free bed and breakfast plus a discounted registration to serve as mentors under Erik Whitehill’s direction, with Carole Lea Arenson as director of 4th – 6th grade singers. The children’s choir participated in the opening worship service with Gregory Peterson as organist.


Joy Berg  
10th Region 4 President (2010 - 2012)

I served as president of Region 4 of the ALCM from 2010-2012 together with Katherine Crosier and Carol Churchill. The goal of our organization is to connect church musicians throughout North America. As a Canadian, it was especially wonderful for me to be part of Region 4 in this way, looking at ways to try to involve/communicate with Canadians even more, as we continued to involve/communicate with the rest of Region 4.

One of the big jobs during my tenure was coordinating and organizing the 2012 summer regional in Thousand Oaks, California. What a wonderful group of committee members we had! They were Carol Churchill, Katherine Crosier, Bradley Ellingboe, Shauna Frechette, Jeff Held, Kyle Johnson, and Lorne Manweiler. Many conference calls were held with many creative ideas placed on the table. And it was a great conference, with the wonderful hospitality of California Lutheran University!

The regional presidents are part of the ALCM national team. Seeing how the organization worked on the national level with the utmost care these leaders took for ALCM and the community of church musicians was inspiring. The length and depth of ALCM is possible because of the passion from the many long-term leaders for this organization!

Finding ways to try to connect with our members, or past-members, is always both a challenge and an opportunity! Whether it be “Christmas wishes” emails, or a note to remind of upcoming events, or finding out what the community needs is and will always be part of the discussion of the president’s role for Region 4.

And then, we have the always present newsletter. This is something that Region 4 is particularly proud of, and rightly so!! Supplying information from the president’s voice for each newsletter and finding the new or innovative or academic discoveries around our Region, is a delight. Thanks to Carole’s...
good work on this. The Region 4 Newsletter has been renowned nationally in ALCM!

It was a gift to be involved at this level with Region 4. The people, the talents, the commitment, and the passion of the ALCM Region 4 members are astounding! Soli Deo Gloria for these people and the abundant gifts given to our community of faith and music.

**Kim Cramer**
11th Region 4 President (2012 - present)

I am beginning my second term as Region 4 President in 2014. Kyle Johnson is the 2014 Vice President and Wally Krueger is the first “Member at Large”. This was the Secretary/Treasurer position previously.

Region 4 had its first every regional in Portland, Oregon, June 15-18, at Concordia University and St Michael’s Lutheran. It may have been one of the first times that a university totally embraced our organization and had their faculty and staff participating in the entire event.

In the 2014 Winter Newsletter Kim writes: “Welcome to fall and to all the activity in your church community which goes along with the beginnings of your musical groups and planning activities. I hope you were able to take time out to view *Cross Accent*. The cover was from our Region 4 Gathering in Concordia University in Portland this past June. Also Paul Hoffman’s three presentations, along with other program highlights from the other regional conferences, are in the Spring 2014 issue.

Words of welcome and appreciation go to our Region 4 officers. We all offer a big thank you to Katherine Crosier, who served as vice president for the last four years, and Randy Knudsen, who served a two year term as secretary/treasurer. I would like to welcome our new regional officers: Kyle Johnson, Vice President and Wally Krueger, Member at Large. We have had two conference call meetings to discuss 2016 and what our next regional gathering may look like. We are exploring opportunities to connect with other professional organizations and create the ability to go into more areas of Region 4. We are definitely in the exploring and brainstorming stage. Any input or ideas you may have would be welcomed.”

**Ministry**

is the serving and witnessing we do *where we are.*

Ministry

is not something we go out to do, but rather

something we do as we go.

It takes place in the normal flow of daily events. We do not have to find our ministry;

it finds us.

- Nelvin Vos