

## **Kiwanis Music Festival Society of Kelowna 2018/19 Board Members**

Zonia Arnold - President  
Eric Reitsma - Treasurer  
Marion MacNeil - Secretary  
Karen Sigurdson - Communications Director  
Denise Andre - Dance Director  
Graham Vink - Music Director  
Althea Di Gregorio - Voice Director  
Sandra Kakoschke - Volunteer Director  
John Przywara - Director  
Dulcie Sharpe - Director

### **MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS**

**Who**      **Zonia Arnold**

**What**     President

**When**    Joined the Kiwanis Festival Board in 2012

**Where**    Grew up in Vancouver, attended Simon Fraser University and studied piano (Level 10). Participated in Kiwanis Music Festival growing up. Worked in the travel industry for 25 years planning individual, group travel and tours. Moved to Kelowna in 2004 and joined the festival through the Kiwanis Club-Summit. Also volunteered with Kelowna General Hospital and City of Kelowna.

**Why**      Being Festival President for three years has really made me appreciate the opportunity to ensure our talented young people have a venue like the festival in which to grow as amateur performers.

Who **Eric Reitsma**  
What Treasurer  
When Joined the Kiwanis Festival Board in 2014  
Where Grew up in Holland until the age of nine when my family immigrated to Canada. Studied Occupational Hygiene at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ontario. Worked for the Government of Alberta for 33 years in Occupational Health and Safety and Employment Standards.  
Why Appreciate the arts, and enjoy seeing young people perform at something they truly love. Have a knack for numbers and want this valuable festival to continue being financially sustainable from year to year.

Who **Marion MacNeil**  
What Secretary  
When Worked with the Kiwanis Festival since 1995; Served as President and Secretary  
Where Born and raised in Abbotsford, B.C., as the second youngest of six children. Worked in the financial industry for 36 years with Royal Trust and others. Moved to Kelowna in 1980. Charter member of Kiwanis Club of Kelowna-Summit that was formed in 1988. Served as President twice, Secretary/Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor of the Division in 2001/02, and Secretary/Treasurer for the past 15 years. Awarded Kiwanian of the year three times.  
Why After a number of years with the Kiwanis club, I became involved with the Music Festival Society by volunteering at a number of disciplines as well as being Volunteer Coordinator for two years. Enjoy all disciplines, but really appreciate piano and voice. These young performers are such a joy to watch and listen to. Attended the Kiwanis International Convention in Toronto in 2016, and the Kiwanis Music Festival performers were the majority of the entertainment. They were fantastic!

**Who** Karen Sigurdson  
**What** Communications Director  
**When** Joined the Kiwanis Festival Board in 2017  
**Where** Grew up in Valleyview, Alberta. Achieved Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton University in Ottawa and worked for the Alberta Government in Communications and Business Planning for 30 years.  
**Why** Have always loved music and the arts and participate in choirs. The festival board is a great group of people to work with and provides me with an opportunity to share my skills in retirement. Wonderful to see young people performing and stretching themselves because of the challenge the festival provides them.

**Who** Denise Andre  
**What** Dance Director  
**When** Worked with the Kiwanis Festival since 2015  
**Where** Born and raised in Prince George, B.C. Personal background is with figure skating as a competitor and professional. Got into dance through my daughter who started dancing at age three and continued in Kiwanis Festivals, winning provincials for senior ballet. Daughter is now a professional dancer. Helped reinstate the dance portion of the festival after it was discontinued for a few years  
**Why** The Kiwanis Festival is a great opportunity for dancers to compete and perform without having to incur great costs or travel long distances. Being on the board has helped me learn different aspects of the festival as well as help with the dance program.

**Who** Graham Vink  
**What** Music Director  
**When** Worked with the Kiwanis Festival since 2009  
**Where** Grew up in Kelowna. Started playing piano at three and began entering the festival by age six or seven. Continued entering every year until 15 or 16 and even came back and entered in the open, non-competitive class as an adult. Achieved Bachelor and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from the Universities of Calgary and Toronto. Regularly perform with soloists,

choirs, and chamber groups, as well as with Upstage Kelowna, M.A.S.K., the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra and Opera Kelowna. Also operate a busy private studio of students and teach at the Kelowna Community Music School.

**Why** Want to help sustain the festival experience for other Okanagan performing artists. Believe there's really nothing else like it for young amateur performers who need to start getting out on stage and dealing with nerves, the preparation process and being in front of people—not just their teacher and parents. The Kiwanis Festival is the only local opportunity to do this and have their performances professionally adjudicated, so it deserves our support.

**Who** **Althea Di Gregorio**

**What** Voice Director

**When** Joined Kiwanis Festival Board in 2016

**Where** Born and raised in Toronto. Received degree in Theatre Arts from University of Windsor. Worked as a professional singer/entertainer and later became a teacher and vocal coach for more than 20 years. Several students have gone on to post-secondary study of music and continue with careers in the entertainment business.

**Why** Started performing at Kiwanis Music Festivals in Toronto around eight-years-old. Entering the music festival was a yearly event at our house growing up. My three sisters and I sang and played piano in every class available. Our mother relied on Kiwanis scholarships to help defray cost of entry fees. Parents both worked two jobs to keep us in music, dance, and vocal lessons. As a result, hold a deep affection for what Kiwanis stands for in the musical realm and hope to continue being part of the local festival for some time.

**Who** **Sandra Kakoschke**

**What** Volunteer Director

**When** Worked with the Kiwanis Festival since 2007

**Where** Grew up in Edmonton. Always enjoyed music, learned to play the piano and sang in a few choirs.

Why Truly love to see local talent being developed at a young age through festival participation. Enjoy the interaction with the students, parents, teachers and volunteers. Kelowna's Kiwanis Festival has been a very delightful and fulfilling organization to be involved with.

Who **John Przywara**

What Director (Kiwanis Club Rep)

When Joined Kiwanis Festival Board in October 2018

Where Grew up in Vancouver and received Bachelor's Degree at Simon Fraser University. Did post-graduate studies at University of Saskatchewan and BCIT. Worked in hospital and recreation administration before moving to Kelowna nearly 30 years ago. Recently retired from owning and operating care homes for children and seniors with dementia. Long-time member and past-president of Kelowna Kiwanis Club-Summit. Also was leader and member of Rotary, civic business associations and organizations that support and advocate for the homeless and other marginalized populations.

Why Believe that anything we can do to support others and ensure children get on the right road to becoming good community citizens should be embraced. Expressing ourselves through the performing arts improves health and quality of life, so the festival is key to promoting well-being in the Okanagan and deserving of my support and effort.

Who **Dulcie Sharpe**

What Director (Kiwanis Club Rep)

When Joined Kiwanis Festival Board in October 2018

Where Grew up in Paradise, Newfoundland, just outside of St. John's. Been a realtor for the last 12 years and worked as a corporate controller in Toronto before that. Currently am President-elect of the Kelowna Kiwanis Club-Summit and an active member of the Canadian Real Estate Association and the Mainline Real Estate Board.

Why Looking forward to learning more about Kelowna's Kiwanis Festival after recently joining the festival board as a Kiwanis representative.