

# *Region V History*

## AMERICAN VOCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Eight decades have passed since the professional association, which represents the interest of people with concerns for vocational education was founded in 1926 (National Society for Vocational Education. (National Society for Vocational Education and the Vocational Education Association of the Middle West combined to form AVA). As the members of the ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION move into their ninth decade, they can look back with pride to evaluate their present position in the educational arena.

Our history of Region V was first documented in Philadelphia in 1967. A group of individuals (mainly state and territorial presidents) from the western half of the United States joined together for the purpose of having an opportunity to discuss common problems. ACTE membership had grown by leaps and bounds, and the Western states felt that they had problems that needed to be addressed. The group entitled themselves COASTA as their meetings became known as the Conference of Officers of Affiliated State and Territorial Associations.

A few years later, ACTE appointed five Regional Liaisons. These were usually retired ACTE members who were still interested in assisting State Associations. They were charged with developing the format for the regional program of work and they supported the regional concept for a closer working relationship.

In 1974, a rebellion was happening in the West among state officers. There was no set time for people to get together. Growing pains were again happening in the individual states. A meeting was scheduled for Denver, Colorado, entitled Conference of Western States. The initials led this group to be called COWS. This was a unique conference because spirits were high, cowboy hats were visible, and instead of a gavel, the chairman called the meeting to order with a COWBELL. The Regions were established after an extensive organizational restructure process in 1974

In July of 1975, the ACTE Board of Directors appointed five Regional Vice Presidents and charged them with the responsibility of taking the first steps necessary to make regions an integral and contributing part of ACTE. Regions were established based on the membership at the time as well as the membership projections with a protected ACTE membership of 15,000 per region.

Originally, New Mexico was part of Region V; but when the final decision was reached, 16 states and the territories of Guam and American Samoa made up the current region. These states were:

Alaska	Hawaii	Nebraska	South Dakota
Arizona	Idaho	Nevada	Utah
California	Kansas	North Dakota	Washington
Colorado	Montana	Oregon	Wyoming

Micronesia was added in 1979. Region V currently has the largest territory with a membership of 5,960 as of January 2016.

The five Regional Vice Presidents serve on the ACTE Board of Directors. Under each Vice President is a Policy Committee composed of six people who serve a three-year term directing and implementing the Strategic Plan.

The following individuals have held the position of Vice President of Region V:

1976-1979	Jo Ellen Zgut, CO
1979-1982	Robert Thompson, CA
1982-1985	G. James Capelli, WA
1985-1988	Russell Blackman, CO
1988-1991	Harvey Link, ND
1991-1994	Thomas Lopp, WA
1994-1997	Lyn Velle, WY
1997-2000	Vern Chandler, WA
2000-2003	Mike Gillespie, AZ
2003-2006	Kathleen Lopp, WA
2006-2009	Kevin English, AZ
2009-2012	Doug Meyer, WA
2012 -2015	Charles Gallagher, AZ
2015-2018	Dodie Bemis, SD
2018-2021	Mark Branger, MT
2021-2024	Shani Watkins, WA

Region V also has a Delegate Assembly (previously called Steering Committee) which serves in the capacity of an advisory committee for the Region V Policy Committee. This Delegate Assembly is made up of three persons from each state, usually the President, Vice President, and Executive Director/Secretary. Each state has one vote at the annual Delegate Assembly meeting held during the Region V Leadership Conference.

The first Region V Leadership Conference was held in 1976 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Attendance was limited, but many vocational educators from Nevada were present at the meeting. Listed below are the years and places the Region V Leadership Conferences has been held:

First	1976	Las Vegas, NV	Eighteenth	1993	Scottsdale, AZ
Second	1977	Boise, ID	Nineteenth	1994	Bozeman, MT
Third	1978	Phoenix, AZ	Twentieth	1995	Overland Park, KS
Fourth	1979	Hilo, HI	Twenty-first	1996	Las Vegas, NV
Fifth	1980	Billings, MT	Twenty-second	1997	Seattle, WA
Sixth	1981	Wichita, KS	Twenty-third	1998	Jackson Hole, WY
Seventh	1982	Portland, OR	Twenty-fourth	1999	Rapid City, SD
Eighth	1983	Golden, CO	Twenty-fifth	2000	Sedona, AZ
Ninth	1984	Fargo, ND	Twenty-sixth	2001	Salt Lake City, UT
Tenth	1985	Seattle, WA	Twenty-seventh	2002	Sun Valley, Idaho
Eleventh	1986	Lincoln, NE	Twenty-eighth	2003	Girdwood, AK
Twelfth	1987	Anchorage, AK	Twenty-ninth	2004	Great Falls, MT
Thirteenth	1988	San Diego, CA	Thirtieth	2005	Mandan, ND
Fourteenth	1989	Jackson, WY	Thirty-first	2006	Omaha, NE
Fifteenth	1990	Rapid City, SD	Thirty-second	2007	Prescott, AZ
Sixteenth	1991	Boise, ID	Thirty-third	2008	San Diego, CA
Seventeenth	1992	Denver, CO	Thirty-fourth	2009	Semiahmoo, WA

Thirty fifth	2010	Anchorage, AK	Forty-third	2018	Colorado Springs, CO
Thirty-sixth	2011	Rapid City, SD	Forty-fourth	2019	Bozeman, MT
Thirty-seventh	2012	Jackson Hole, WY	Forty-fifth	2020	Virtual - Nevada
Thirty-eighth	2013	Salt Lake City, UT	Forty-sixth	2021	Virtual -Nevada
Thirty-ninth	2014	Bismarck, ND	Forty-seventh	2022	Honolulu, HI
Fortieth	2015	Overland Park, KS	Fourth-eighth	2023	Fargo, ND
Forty-first	2016	San Diego, CA	Forty-ninth	2024	
Forty-second	2017	Rapid City, SD	Fiftieth	2025	

Region V is proud of its accomplishments. It is one thing to know your colleagues as names in an organization, or even as voices on the phone. It is quite another to know the feel of their handshakes, the warmth of their smiles, and the conviction of their beliefs. For professionals endeavoring to educate others, working in scattered locations throughout the country, meeting with their distant associates makes all the difference in the world. As a result of attending just one of these activities, many vocational educators return home knowing that they are not alone in their efforts. Many of us believe this is the best conference we attend each year.

The following individuals from Region V have served as the AVA/ACTE president:

**Edwin A. Lee**

Dec. 1925-Dec. 1927  
(California - T&I)

**Charles M. Miller**

Dec. 1930-Dec. 1931  
(Kansas - T&I)

**L.R. Humpherys**

Dec. 1940-Dec. 1941  
(Utah - Agriculture)

**Julian A. McPhee**

Dec. 1947-Dec. 1948  
(California - Agriculture)

**Mark Nichols**

Dec. 1953-Dec. 1954  
(Utah - Agriculture)

**Cecil E. Stanley**

Dec. 1954-Dec. 1955  
(Nebraska - Distributive Education)

**Eva W. Scully**

Dec. 1956-Dec. 1957  
(Arizona - Home Economics)

**K. Otto Logan**

July 1965-June 1966  
(Washington - Distributive Education)

**Gary D. Meers**

July 1984-June 1985  
(Nebraska - Special Needs)

**Niel A. Edmunds**

July 1988-June 1989  
(Nebraska - Industrial Arts)

**Harvey Link**

July 1992-June 1993  
(North Dakota - Region V)

**Jesse L. Hudson**

July 1993-June 1994  
(Kansas - T&I)

**Tom Lopp**

July 1995-June 1996  
(Washington - Region V)

**Dianne Mondry**

July 2001-June 2002  
(North Dakota – Special Needs)

**Coleen Keffeler**

July 2007 – June 2008

(South Dakota – New and Related Services)

**Sarah Heath**

July 2014 – June 2015

(Colorado – Business)

**Doug Meyer**

July 2015 – June 2016

(Washington – Region V)