

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area I, Inc.
Atlantic Provinces, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

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Notes from Ed

As I've been wondering what exactly I want to say in this issue of our newsletter, I think about all of the exciting events that have taken place since our last issue, and I think about all of the events on our calendar this coming spring. I think about the planning that is already taking place for events as far in the future as 2002 and 2003! I think about the two-day meeting of your Board of Directors that took place recently in spite of a major snowstorm and all of the issues that were discussed with tremendous passion and vision on your behalf. But one topic keeps coming to mind that overshadows it all. Your nominating committee spent the last seven months talking to members from all over Area I in an effort to put together a slate of officers to serve for the next two years. In hindsight it was a daunting task. More importantly it was an eye-opening task. The message was clear, people would like to serve this organization, but just don't have the time. Nearly everyone contacted was too busy to serve. But, thanks to the committee's perseverance, a slate of very dedicated and talented officers was assembled any and all of whom will work extremely hard and serve this organization with pride. Most importantly, take 60 seconds; vote for the people that you feel will best serve you. Use your voting privilege as a way of saying yes, the Guild is important to me! Let's make this a record voter turn out.

It doesn't end there, though. There are still many opportunities for you to serve, if only for a day. We have two Repertoire Reading Sessions scheduled for next fall, the annual Winter Director's Seminar and a new two day Adult week-end in the fall of '02 that all need volunteers to see that they happen. Heck, we're already planning Festival!

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Conference '03 and F/C '01 hasn't even taken place yet! All of these events are short-term commitments and they need good people to organize and run them. New faces are needed before the old ones wear out! Please call and volunteer.

Ed Henderson, Your Chair

Reports from Liaisons and State Chairs

Atlantic Provinces

Atlantic Canada bell ringers seem to be back in full swing after our summer break and we are pleased to have passed on our 3 octave set of chimes to another chime loan recipient. Ross Thompson of the Annapolis Valley, N.S., is a very capable teacher and musician who I am sure will make full use of this program in his classroom. I have spoken with him recently and it is evident that he has an enthusiastic group of students. The dimension which the chimes will add to his established choral program is encouraging to hear.

Many Atlantic Province bell choirs and churches had the honor of hosting the South Church Handbell Ringers from Vermont this summer. Under the direction of Phil Brown, the choir performed many concerts and participated in worship services in several towns and cities throughout New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. One Halifax area choir was so impressed they invited Mr. Brown to return in May 2001 as guest conductor/clinician for our "somewhat" annual Spring Ring.

Many of our choirs look forward to attending the upcoming F/C, and we especially appreciate the beneficial Canadian rate. The Canadian money and overseas exchange still remain an issue when trying to promote the AGEHR membership in our area. Many choirs cannot justify this high cost when considering the limited advantages a Canadian choir receives from an AGEHR membership. Perhaps this issue needs further discussion.

We thank you again for the opportunity to participate in the Area 1 board meetings. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts in attracting more bell/chime choirs, and serving as a resource and mentor for existing AGEHR Atlantic Province members.

Joy Miller, Atlantic Province Co-Chair

Connecticut

The last meeting of the CT Steering Committee was held on December 2 and focused on a spring event to

be held on April 28 at the Masters School in Simsbury. Local clinicians will lead ringers and directors through the day. Healthy Ringing will be a part of the focus for the day as well as four-in-hand ringing techniques. Registration forms will be sent out in the near future.

It was a pleasure to host the southern reading session on October 14. There is always so much to learn from reading through new music. Many directors were able to purchase music and other materials that they will be using during this year.

Many directors from CT will be attending the seminar on Feb. 2-3. Someone from CT will transport Valerie Stephenson from her son's home in East Hartford to the workshop and back.

We continue our leadership roles with Beverly Simpson as chair of the steering committee and Jean Degan as CT state chair. There will be many local "spring rings" as well as our April 28th event for the whole state. We hope many of you will be able to take advantage of these gatherings.

The Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School from Providence RI, under the direction of Dan Moore, will begin their spring tour with two concerts in CT. They will perform at St. Joseph Church, 33 Queen St. Bristol on Tuesday, March 6 at 7:30 P.M. (860-583-1369) They will then head off to the East School in New Canaan. Laurie Bischof is the contact person for this event. For more information on these events, contact the Wheeler School at 401-421-8100.

Jean Degan, CT State Chair

Maine

Bell ringing is alive and well in Maine! Since my last report we have had news of the following organizations beginning handbell groups:

- Scott Ellis has started a children's handbell group
- Michelle Wubbenhorst of Belfast, ME has just relocated to this area and is working with handbells in a Belfast church.
- Noelle Johnson of Springvale, ME. 04083 (207-459-7168) has just uncovered a three octave set of handbells and is working with the New Covenant Baptist Church of North Berwick.
- Anissa Bacon started a new bell choir at the First Congregational Church of Scarborough, ME.
- Jefferson Village School has raised enough funds to order their second octave of handbells.
- Bristol Consolidated School has begun handbells in their music education program!

The Parish Ringers have finalized plans for the Maine Spring Festival. It will be held April 28, 2001 at the

Brunswick Junior High School. Please contact me (207-549-5187) or Karen Leland (207-725-6362) if you have further questions.

Many thanks to Ray Cornils and Jackie Frisk for agreeing to conduct the Coppers and Tins at this Festival.

Jackie reports that the bell ringers of Bangor had a wonderful time during the holiday season and were broadcast over public radio.

The Parish Ringers had an unforgettable season performing with the Portland Symphony during the Magic of Christmas.

Contacts have been made and plans finalized for handbell/chime representation at the Maine Music Educators Conference to be held at Lewiston High School during May 17-19, 2001. Area I and Maine Music Educators are excited about this visibility for it has been a decade or more since these instruments have been seen at the music conferences of Maine. Schulmerich representative, David Stadig, has volunteered to do an exhibit. I will be teaching a clinic regarding preparation of handbell/chime music for use in school settings.

Hope to see all Maine ringers at the April Festival!
Bunny Stanley, ME State Chair

New Hampshire

NH Spring Ring 2001 will be held on March 10, 2001. Plans for the second NH Spring Ring are underway. The one day event will be held at the Rundlett Middle School, in Concord, NH. Schedule for the event includes two mass rehearsals and culminates in a concert (open to the public) at the end of the afternoon. We are fortunate to have Mr. Philip Brown, VT State Chair and AREA I Board member, as our clinician/director for the day. Joan Fossum is serving as the site coordinator for this event. For further information about this event, please contact: Cindy Headley, (603)437-2983 or ctheadley@juno.com

Don't forget that we have a new community based performance group. Joan Fossum and Sue Chamberlain are organizers of this Community Handbell Choir. If you have an interest in participating in this choir or would like to know where and when they are performing, you can get in touch with Joan at her e-mail address: jeafbell@aol.com or Sue Chamberlain: SUECHAM@aol.com

I have established a NH Handbell Directors' List in an effort to reach more NH directors, on a more regular basis. Advance announcements of upcoming events, music selections for massed selections, newsletters,

and so on, are now all being sent to NH members by e-mail. If you are a NH Director and have an e-mail address I can use to contact you, please e-mail me at ctheadley@juno.com.

The next Directors' Roundtable will be held on June 2, 2001 in Alton, NH at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center Campground. The meeting will start at 10 am. To RSVP and get directions, please e-mail me at ctheadley@juno.com or call (603)437-2983.

Cindy Headley, NH State Chair

Rhode Island

The next state-organized event is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2000, Rhode Island's Fourth "Spring Ring". Registration materials were mailed in late December. This wonderful annual event will be held in Chapel Hall on the campus of Mt. St. Charles Academy, Woonsocket, RI (Host: Marc Blanchette). This event will involve massed ringing of four pieces under the leadership of clinician, Karen James. A public concert will be held at the end of the workshop.

A Directors' Spring Roundtable will be scheduled later in the spring to determine dates and locations for the upcoming year's activities. All interested directors and ringers are invited to attend this discussion. We will seek a host and location for the September "Back to Bells" workshop and for next year's Fifth Annual "RI Spring Ring".

Lori Kast, RI State Chair

Vermont

2001 Events:

Directors' Roundtable - January 27, 2001: This annual event was held in Woodstock, VT. This was an occasion to get a head start on the Vermont Spring Ring and Area-I Festival massed music in addition to renewing friendships and sharing joys and concerns.

Vermont Youth Ring - Saturday, March 24, 2001. Lynn Welsh is chairing this event which will be held in Manchester, VT. Mary Jane Bosworth, Phil Brown and Karen James will be directing.

Vermont Spring Ring - the 20th Annual! - April 27 and 28, 2000 in West Rutland, VT. Karen James is chairing this event, Nancy-Jean Steffen has agreed to serve as registrar and AGEHR National President Karen Leonard will be the clinician/massed director. 10 choirs have registered as of January 15th. Registration deadline was January 30. Rehearsal notes have been distributed for the massed ringing selections which include:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Sherman
Sonatina No. 1 - Helman

One Small Child - Waldrop
A New Gloria - Moklebust

Area-I Festival/Conference 2001 - Burlington, VT: I have been asked by our F/C Chair Jerilyn Bergdahl to locate and organize the loaner bells/chimes for class sessions. I have to start working on this in earnest right away. Any help, especially locating unused 5-octave sets of bells, would be appreciated.

Outreach: I am thrilled to be able to direct at two massed ringing events outside Vermont this spring. I have been invited to direct the NH Spring Ring on March 10 in Concord, NH and also the Atlantic Provinces Spring Ring in Halifax, NS on May 26. I hope these events will provide opportunities to encourage our ringing neighbors, to spread the good word about handbell ringing and the work of the Guild and to make some wonderful music together.

Phil Brown, VT Chair

Special Needs Liaison

I have provided input to Phil Brown and Karen James for articles they wrote for Overtones. I have provided information to Nancy Jean Steffen and Jeri Bergdahl about the classes that I will be teaching at Vermont Spring Ring, and Festival/Conference. I will be teaching Basics for Bodies and Bells at Spring Ring, with my trusty assistant Karen James, and Stretching with Nancy, and round-table discussions to address special needs with directors and ringers, at Festival/Conference at UVM.

Nancy G. Reynolds, RPT, M.Ed.

Education Liaison

The Handchime Loan Program saw two applicants for the second half of the year, which begins in February. Lori Kast, a volunteer at the Saylesville Elementary School, was the first applicant. The Saylesville Elementary School has a student population of around 418 students in grades 2-6. One music teacher provides one 45-50 minute music session to each class weekly in the classrooms, library or the multi-use art room. In 1999 the school began an afterschool music program that co-exists with an afterschool enrichment program that features crafts, baby-sitting skills and other club-type interests.

Lori is volunteering her time to students (the first 15 - 22) in grade 6 that are interested in the handchime program. These students would attend rehearsal on Thursday from 3:15-4:00pm. They will pay the Winter/Spring registration fee of \$10.00 charged by the school, which will cover the cost of purchasing a school AGEHR membership and the cost of music. Prior music experience is not required for students who are

interested in this class. A goal of the class will be to perform several pieces during special music presentations offered at the school.

Lori was notified on 1/17/01 that she would be able to pick up the chimes at the AGEHR meeting held on 1/20/01 in New Hampshire. Area I is looking forward to Lori's success!

The second applicant was Lei Grismer from the Waits River Valley School of East Corinth, Vermont. Waits River is a K-8 public school with good parental and community support for music education. Lei is the music teacher at the school, providing 40-50 minute sessions for classes of between 15-21 students per class. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and knows first hand the excellent tools handbells/chimes can be in teaching rhythm, notation, harmony and ensemble performance. Good luck to Lei! We look forward to hearing the reports from these two programs.

Contact was made with Ross Thompson of the Port Williams Elementary School in Port Williams, Nova Scotia. Ross applied for the handchime loaner program and was able to use the chimes in the fall. Area I is looking forward to his follow up report.

Contact was made with Dayna Drake regarding the Chime displays that are available in Dayton for Area I to borrow and setup at the Festival/Conference.

Contact has been made and finalized with the Maine Music Educators for presentation of handbells and handchimes at the conference to be held at Lewiston High School on May 17-19, 2001. Area I and Maine Music Educators are excited about this visibility for it has been a decade or more since these instruments have been seen at the music conferences of Maine. Schulmerich representative, David Stadig, has volunteered to do an exhibit. I will be teaching a clinic regarding preparation of handbell/chime music for use in school settings. I have not yet finalized a group to perform, but several possibilities are being pursued. The Handchime Loaner Program will be promoted at this conference and applications will be available to interested individuals.

I have contacted other Area representatives regarding their handchime loaner program. Several have responded by sending copies of their applications and suggestions on processing these applications. Thank you to all individuals who took the time to help.

Bunny Stanley, Education Liaison

Report of Area Representative to the National Board

There has been no National Board meeting since our last meeting, so here's a summary of the committee work that I have been doing. At present, I am on three committees for the National Board.

1. The Accreditation Committee.

Work continues towards producing written Level I Conductor exams. Each committee member was assigned a category to create test questions. Herb Geisler, chair of the committee has been collating these, and is hoping to do field testing of these with his college students this semester. Others are welcomed and encouraged to administer the tests at meetings or events where there are willing participants.

2. The Logo Contest Committee.

As chair of this committee, I received requests for the logo contest rules and created a database of all entries.

I received 64 entries by the deadline (Dec. 15, 2000). A week later, all entries had been blinded and mailed out to the 3-committee members. The committee met via conference call and narrowed their choices down to five entries.

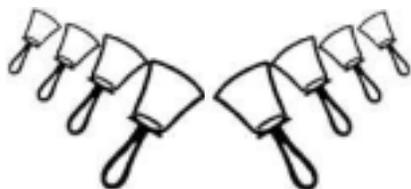
I will present these five finalists to the National Board at the Feb. meeting for their selection. The Board has the option of not choosing one of these entries as a winner. If one is chosen, the artist will receive the \$1000 winning award.

3. The third committee that I am serving on is an anonymous one.

In addition to these committees, I have corresponded with the Rep from Area II regarding several issues, and am preparing the written report of Area I for the next Board meeting.

Each of these committees will present their reports at the upcoming Board meeting in Tampa, Feb. 15-18, 2001.

Karen James, Area I Representative



F/C Rehearsal Notes - an Update

When the Saints Go Marching In (the correct one)

- Let's strive for quarter note = 132 (quarter note = 104 is awfully slow)
- Observe all dynamics throughout, be particularly careful moving from f to p
- Observe all techniques as indicated
- Make sure all marts are begun with the bell close to the table
- Be sure to keep a nice musical flow throughout the entire piece

Have fun!

A New Gloria

For those of you who think a New Gloria is a challenging piece, David Weck agrees with you. So, if your choir is on the verge of saying: "We can't go to Festival, because there's no way we can play this piece", then here's some options suggested by David.

1. Your choir may choose to not play this piece, and just sit this one out.
2. Your choir could play only the parts that you feel they are comfortable with.
3. Practice this piece like crazy, and when we all get to the ringing floor, David will do what he can to pull us all together, and then decisions can be made regarding whether or not some groups will play or not.

Also, regarding tempos, the opening tempo will most likely be closer to 60, and the tempo at measures 25 and 110 will be about 120.

Karen James after discussion with David Weck

Young Ringers Area I Festival/Conference from the Director

I am genuinely looking forward to the Young Ringer Festival in Burlington, VT as part of the AGEHR, Area I Festival/Conference from June 28-July 1. This is an opportunity to have fun ringing great music and to just have fun together.

Young people are the future of handbells. They are eager and capable. They never say, "I can't." We should challenge them to ring well and make sure they have a good time doing it. We owe it to young people to teach them well, encourage them, enjoy ringing with them and, in some cases, learn from them.

The selections for the Young Ringers Division are:

Red River Valley	McChesney	RRBL5007
Graceful Entry	Afdahl	HB496
Make Me An Instrument	McChesney	Handbell Univ.

Plus an additional piece for a mini-concert:

Cantus Invenilus	Stephenson	AG23013
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I live in Area I, and am only e-mail away from any questions you may have concerning the music for this portion of the festival. Please encourage your ringers to come. We promise to do our best to make it a very positive experience for them.

Jane Nolan, Director of Young Ringers Division

Festival/Conference Registration

To receive registration information about Festival/Conference 2001, you must request a registration packet. Contact Sue Henderson (EdSueHend@aol.com).

Area I Festival/Conference '01 and Young Ringers Festival

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
June 28-July 1, 2001

Less than five months until the opening bell and the excitement continues to build for Festival/Conference 2001. Beautiful Lake Champlain surrounded by the Green Mountains in the east and Adirondak mountains in the west, together make a spectacular setting for ringing bells. From all indications, this will be one of the largest Festival/Conferences, ever!

Those of you who have sent in the glossy insert from the last Fundamental Tone have already received your registration materials. There is still time for those of you who haven't requested the registration packet to do so by sending in the glossy, logging into the Area I web site, or contacting one of your Area I representatives. However, it is very important to send it back to us as soon as you can. Share the information with your ringers and assist them as they make their class choices.

Something new this year; you could be a participant in

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David A. Stadig, District Manager

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the first ever Area I F/C Orchestra to accompany Kevin McChesney's "Make Me an Instrument". Kevin has given many suggestions for performance options. All you need to do to be a part of the orchestra is send a tape of yourself playing your instrument accompanied by bells or keyboard to: Karen James, 58 Hendee Lane, Pittsford, VT 05763-9871. David Harris will arrange for an orchestra rehearsal before the final concert. This is an example of the opportunities for extra participation at F/C.

I am delighted to say that we have 40 clinicians and are offering 74 exciting and informative courses. Eight of the clinicians are new and 15 all new class topics have been developed. The class offerings are a highlight of the Festival/Conference and we are sure you will be as excited as we are when you see the list. "Class Tracks" were offered for the first time in Orono. They were so popular that we have increased the number and offer six Class Tracks for F/C '01, including an all new track for bronze ringers. As you can tell, the committee has been hard at work and responds to your requests for more opportunities to learn and develop your ringing and directing techniques.

Rehearsal notes published in the last Fundamental Tone should be at your side as you begin rehearsing the repertoire. Many choirs are performing selections from the repertoire as part of their regular Sunday services. In addition, look for spring ringing events and workshops that may be offered on the repertoire. There are many ways to get to know and prepare the music. For those of you preparing bronze music, remember that you will need to send in confirmation of public performance of the music before June. Resources are available to help you prepare for Festival/Conference. Feel free to contact your State Chair, the Area I Chair, the F/C '01 Registrar or me. We are all available by phone or e-mail and are happy to assist in any way we can. In addition the F/C '01 pages on the Area I web site are full of information.

Are you thinking about polishing up your variety show act? How about a mini-concert? Get that recording ready and sent to Karen for the first ever Area I F/C Orchestra!

Come, join us in Burlington in June!

Jerilyn Bergdahl, F/C Chair

*Check out the Area I Web page
at:
www.Agehrarea1.org*

From the Historian

Here is your Area I Handbell History Quiz question for this issue of the Fundamental Tone:

Who was Edward R. Street, what did he do, where and when did he live?

Any guesses? If you think you know the answer(s) e-mail me. Winners names will be listed in the next issue!

I'd like to develop a network of local historians/archivists throughout the Area to help collect programs, photos, news articles and press releases about handbell activities. Area I continues to be an active and vibrant ringing community but too many activities go undocumented. If you would be willing to help me keep the AREA I historical records current (and perhaps be interested in organizing through some of the important documents already in our possession), I'd be pleased to hear from you via e-mail (address above), carrier pigeon, phone, fax, or whatever.

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Ouch, My Aching...

As you stand in front of your choir while they are ringing, have you ever noticed facial grimaces, even when the right note has been played? Do members of your choir sit down somewhere while you are working with another section of the table? Do you notice that some of your ringers have difficulty moving the bell easily while ringing, even when encouraged? Are there times when a ringer just can't get the effect that you want with the bell? Do your ringers ever actually tell you that they are sore, or that they can't play because of pain? Do you have members in your choir who have arthritis, tendonitis, or low back pain?

The reason for these questions is to increase your awareness of the potential physical impact of ringing on the people you lead. I have stated in several previous articles that ringing is often not the root cause of the pain your ringers may be feeling. They bring the impact of all their physical activity to the table every time. It is your job and mine, to be ever mindful of that fact, to increase our ringers aware of this fact, and to

nurture their ability to take care of themselves and remedy or avoid difficulty.

If a ringer is experiencing discomfort, there are several things that should be assessed to determine how best, first to alleviate, and then to prevent the problem from recurring. No matter the complaint, it is important to ask the ringer if this is a new problem, or have they experienced similar discomfort in the past. Find out if they have ever been treated for this type of pain by a health care professional. If this is a new complaint, is the discomfort mild or excruciating, or somewhere in-between? Do they know if they injured themselves in this area recently?

First, ringers experiencing discomfort should be encouraged to play only if ringing does not aggravate their symptoms. If ringing makes things worse, then they should take a break from ringing and/or seek medical advice. If the complaint is new, mild, and there is no known acute injury, then it may be sufficient to suggest that the ringers engage in some mild stretching exercises before resuming, to stretch tight muscles and warm up their body for the task at hand. These exercises can also enhance general relaxation. Their use should be encouraged both before and after every ringing experience. For mild discomfort, over the counter pain medications or icing of the area may also prove helpful.

The person's method of ringing should be assessed. Are they holding the bell properly? Is their grip on the bell relaxed? Are they keeping their wrists relaxed and aligned? Do they use arm, rather than wrist movement to extract sound? Do they appear tense or relaxed? Do they stand with their feet apart and knees slightly bent? Do they move to the bell, rather than reach for the bell? Improper ringing technique should be addressed immediately. Proper grip of the bell, correct wrist alignment and the use of arm, rather than wrist movement to produce sound, can be taught, reviewed, or practiced as necessary. Wristbands can improve a ringer's awareness of wrist position. Conditioning exercises can be used to strengthen the wrist and arm so that ringing properly becomes more spontaneous. Back exercises can be used to help improve standing posture and alleviate low back pain. Proper body mechanics can also be taught to help avoid low back pain or discomfort between the shoulder blades.

If the ringer's discomfort is severe due to an acute injury, or it is the result of a chronic injury, condition or disability, the approach used to address it would be very different. If there has been an acute injury or the pain is severe, the ringers should not be allowed to ring until they have either sought medical attention, or used

appropriate first aid measures until the injury resolves. Following such an episode, the individual should be encouraged to use the exercises and proper ringing technique described above. If the discomfort is a recurrence of symptoms from a previous injury, or the result of a chronic condition such as arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, or tendonitis, for which the ringer has previously received medical attention, it would be appropriate to ask him to seek the advice of his health care provider. It may be helpful or necessary to resume the exercises or treatment used previously to address the injury or condition. It will still be important, once the person resumes ringing, to use conditioning and warm up exercises, good body mechanics, and appropriate supportive devices such as wrist or tendonitis bands.

Careful consideration of bell assignments by the director can help reduce or prevent discomfort. It will be important for ringers to be truthful with the director about how they feel, physically, with any bell assignment. If the individual has arthritis, the weight of the bell, or the size of the grip required may affect ringing comfort. Individuals who have experienced bursitis or tendonitis of the shoulder or elbow may need to limit the time they spend playing bass bells. Ringers of short stature may also find it uncomfortable playing bass bells all the time. Those with small hands may have difficulty playing bass bells or four-in-hand. Varying bell assignments, from piece to piece, may prevent pain while improving the versatility of the group.

Nancy G. Reynolds, RPT, M.Ed.
Special Needs Liaison

Scholarship Deadline Extended

The deadline for applying for choir scholarships for Festival/Conference 2001 has been extended to March 15, 2001. The Overseers of the Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship announced the extension to encourage first time attendance at the F/C at the University of Vermont in Burlington, June 28 - July 1, 2001. According to the provisions of the fund, scholarships may be awarded to Area-I handbell choirs attending their first Area I Festival/Conference. This also includes youth choirs attending their first Young Ringers Festival. The guidelines for the scholarships define handbell choirs as a performing group of 7 or more ringers and give preference to groups with 75% or more of their members attending.

Those interested in applying for a scholarship should

send a letter of application to Phil Brown, Chair of the Overseers, P.O. Box 53, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 or <kbbp@together.net>. Applications should include your AGEHR membership number and should describe your handbell program, reasons for applying, fund raising plans if applicable and any other pertinent information. Programs, clippings, resumes, etc. may be sent as well. If applying for a choir scholarship, please include the size of your choir and the number of ringers planning to register for the Festival/Conference. All applications will be acknowledged.

The original deadline for applications was January 31, 2001; however, no applications were received by that date. The guidelines provide for an extension if no applications are received by the deadline. The Area I Board and the Overseers of the Bradford Scholarship want to encourage new choirs to attend Festival/Conference, have set up the Bradford Scholarship for that purpose and would like to see the money used. But no scholarships can be awarded unless applications are made for the funds.

The extension of the deadline until the Early Registration date of March 15 will require choirs to register and pay in full. Scholarship awards may be used to rebate choir registrants or offset other expenses. Awards will be announced as soon after March 15th as practical.

All members of Area I are eligible except elected or appointed Board members, Overseers of the Endowment Fund, or members of any committee of the Area I Board.

For a complete list of guidelines contact Phil Brown or visit the Area I Web page.

New Members

Please welcome the following new members to Area I:

Connecticut:

David Baranowski, Hamden, CT
Sudie Blanchard, Greenwich, CT
Cheryl Harges, Ivoryton CT
Karen Walker, Avon, CT

Maine

Lance Schanck, Hartland, ME

Massachusetts

Margaret Becker, Falmouth, MA
Steve Chapin, Chelmsford, MA
Lillian Davis, Centerville, MA
Judith Decker, Lexington, MA
Thom Dutton, West Chatham, MA

Karen Hastie Wilson, Milford, MA
Evelyn Heinrich, Chelmsford, MA
Richard Hill, North Easton, MA
Marjorie Needham, Concord, MA
Suzanne McAllister, Winchester, MA
Pauline Oliver, Wayland, MA
Cynthia Rubant, Framingham, MA
Marilyn Steele, Amherst, MA
Rev Michael Steele, Wakefield, MA
Cheryl Sullivan, East Falmouth, MA
Handbell Director, Attleboro, MA
Handbell Director, Oxford, MA

New Hampshire

Chris Brandenburg, Plymouth, NH

Tapes Available from the Video Library

There seems to be a booming interest in solo ringing lately. The Area I Video Library has a tape that is a must for the "want to be" soloist. SONGS FOR THE SOLO RINGER, presented by Christine Anderson and David Weck, takes the beginning solo ringer from basic bell weaving, bell set-ups, and damping techniques through choreography. The instruction is easily understood and the pointers very useful. The video concludes with the ringing of three solo pieces performed by Christine Anderson.

An excellent tape for the beginning choir and those who need a little review is BELL BASICS, narrated by Susan Berry and David Weck. This video uses a "sample" choir to show correct and incorrect techniques. Proper hand holds, ringing motions and damping methods are demonstrated as well as ways to correct improper techniques. Several special notations are explained and demonstrated including LV, Tower Swing, Pluck, Thumb Damp and Shake.

If you would like a copy of the Area I Video Library Brochure, contact Wendy Lewis.

Mail: 297 Fisher Street, Walpole, MA 02081
E-mail: WJL4inHand@aol.com
Phone: 508-668-3726

Area I Elections

Please take the time to read the information about the candidates for the elected positions and vote for the one of your choice.

Cynthia Hamburger must receive your vote by April 15, 2001 for it to be counted.

Handbell Directors Wanted

Bell Choir Director sought for South Congregational Church in Springfield, MA. Weekly rehearsal for monthly performance with new 3-octave set of Schulmerich handbells. \$50 per rehearsal stipend. Contact Bob McCarroll, evenings at (413) 736-0629.

The Pilgrim Congregational Church of Southborough, MA is seeking a handbell director immediately. This is a paid position for a group of 5 –10 ringers that have from 1 to 10 years of experience and varying abilities. The group loves to ring but equally important is the fellowship! The Church owns 4 octaves of bells. Contact Cynthia Torilli at torilli@aol.com or mail your resume to Ms. Dorothy Locke, Personnel Committee, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Common Street, Southborough, MA 01772.

Coming Events

March 6 at 7:30 P.M.: Wheeler School Handbells to perform at St. Joseph Church, 33 Queen St. Bristol, CT.

March 10, 2001: NH Spring Ring 2001 at the Rundlett Middle School, in Concord, NH. Contact: Cindy Headley (603-437-2983) for more information.

March 17 - Massachusetts Youth Ring (Grades 3-9), at the Forest Grove School, Worcester, MA. Contact: Cynthia Hamburger (508-366-4910) for more information.

March 24, 2001: Vermont Youth Ring. Lynn Welsh is chairing this event which will be held in Manchester, VT. Mary Jane Bosworth, Phil Brown and Karen James will be directing.

March 24 - Merrimack Valley Handbell Festival at the Tewksbury Memorial High School, Tewksbury, MA. Contact Ed Henderson or Karen Leonard for more information.

March 31, 2000: Rhode Island's Fourth "Spring Ring" in Chapel Hall on the campus of Mt. St. Charles Academy, Woonsocket, RI. Contact Lori Kast (401) 727-4585 for more information.

April 27 and 28, 2000: Vermont Spring Ring - the 20th Annual! - in West Rutland, VT. Karen James is chairing this event, Nancy-Jean Steffen is the registrar and

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1109 Tin of 12 cloths (with 1 pair of nitrite gloves) \$15.50



If you're looking for just a few replacement parts for your bells, go to www.HandbellWorld.com and click on "Bell Parts." We have a wide selection of parts for Malmark, Schulmerich and Whitechapel bells available - probably just the ones you need!

AGEHR National President Karen Leonard will be the clinician/massed director. Contact Karen James for more information.

April 28, 2001: Maine Spring Festival, at the Brunswick Junior High School. Contact Bunny Stanley (207-549-5187) or Karen Leland (207-725-6362) if you have further questions.

April 28, 2001: Connecticut Spring Event to be held at the Masters School in Simsbury. Contact Beverly Simpson (860-621-6217) for more information.

May 26, 2001: Atlantic Provinces Spring Ring in Halifax, NS.

June 2, 2001: NH Directors' Roundtable in Alton, NH at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center Camp-ground.

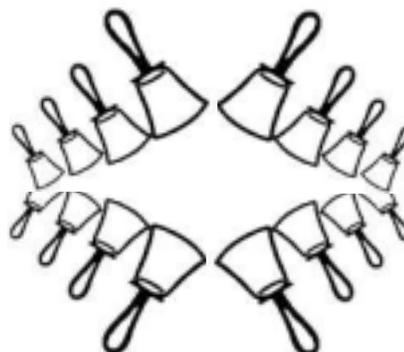
June 28-July 1: Area I Festival/Conference and Yound Ringers Festival '01 at the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

August 4-8, 2001: Family Handbell Camp at Camp Ogontz in Lisbon, NH. For more information, see the notice included in this newsletter.

November 10, 2001, High School Ring Out, Worcester, MA.

International Symposium

The 2002 International Symposium will be held in Korea, July 30 - August 3. If you are interested in taking your choir and being a part of this exciting event you must contact AGEHR Executive Director Vic Kostenko right away.



The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. - Membership Form

Membership Categories	PERSONAL INFORMATION								
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership \$50.50	Name: _____								
<input type="checkbox"/> Ringer Membership \$20.50 (Must belong to choir of regular member) Member's # _____	Organization/Business/School: _____								
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen (65+) \$34*	Address: _____								
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time Student \$34*	City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sterling \$85	Country: _____								
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum \$165	Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____								
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<input type="checkbox"/> Overseas Subscription \$34** (+ postage)									
* (Individual - may not represent group)									
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THE FUNDAMENTAL TONE
Newsletter of AGEHR Area I
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Deadline for Spring
Fundamental Tone:
May 19, 2001