

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Atlantic Provinces, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Volume XVI, No. 1

October 2001

Syllables from Sue

Greetings,

Writing this column is one of my first duties after taking office as Chair for AGEHR Area I, so let me start by introducing myself to those of you who don't know me. My name is Sue Chamberlin and I live in Northwood, NH where I am the technology coordinator and teach 7th and 8th grade math. I also direct four bell choirs at my school, two for students in grades 6-8, one for high school students, and one for staff members. In addition, I direct the handbell choir at Faith Community Baptist Church in Loudon, NH. I started ringing in 1981, attended my first Area 1 Festival at Keene State in 1983. At that Festival I took classes on solo ringing and four-in-hand and saw a handbell quartet for the first time. As a result of that experience, Bells-n-Four was started. This quartet attended, performed, and taught classes at every Area I Festival and a couple of National Festivals from 1985 until 1997. I left Bells-n-Four in 1998 in order to give more energy to the youth choir I was directing that attended the International Symposium in Tokyo. The following year I moved to Northwood and started over again teaching beginning ringers.

My early experiences with AGEHR and Area I Festivals made me into a great fan of this organization. As a student I experienced the competitive atmosphere of high school bands, and it is so refreshing and exhilarating to feel the support and encouragement of other ringers and directors at AGEHR events. I am sure that those of you who attended F/C '01 at the University of Vermont last summer know what I am talking about – the heartfelt, enthusiastic applause for every group that performed in a mini-concert, the standing ovation given to the Young Ringers, the helpful hints and encouragement offered by all the instructors. I hope you have been able to hold onto that excitement as your choirs started up again this fall. For those of you who have never attended a Festival/

In This Issue

Syllables From Sue	1	Hand Chime Loan Program . .	6
Reports	2	People Person?	6
Bradford Endowment Report . .	4	Coming Events	7
National Board Report	4	Bulletin Board	7
Bradford Scholarships	5	Directors' Workshop . . .	insert
Historian's Trunk	5		

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Area I Rep:

Ed Henderson

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secretary@agehrarea1.org

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Handbells for Special

Groups:

Nancy Reynolds

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Chairs and appointed
officers listed on page 2.

Conference, start planning now for F/C '03 to be held at UMass Amherst, June 26-29, 2003.

But don't wait for 2003! Throughout this issue of The Fundamental Tone and on the Area I Web site (www.agehrarea1.org) you can find information about upcoming events – the High School Ring Out in November, Director's Seminar in February, and many Spring Rings. Plan to attend at least one event this year– you won't regret it! And if you have an idea for a new event – perhaps a youth ring in your area, or a joint concert put on by bell choirs in your town – Area I has seed money available to help you get started.

I want to express my thanks to some people who have served Area I well in the last few years: to Ed Henderson, our past Chair – thank you for your leadership and preparing me to try to follow in your footsteps. I'm glad you are still on the Board as Area Rep to National; to Jerilyn Bergdahl, Chairman of F/C '01 for all your efforts that made this summer's event such a success; to Marie Loeffler, past treasurer, Cindy Headley, past NH Chair, Jean Degan, past CT Chair, and NancyJean Steffen, past Guild Store Manager – thank you all for your service to the Board and to Area I.

And welcome to the new Board members: Debra LeBrun who is not new to the board, but changing hats from secretary to chair-elect, Sue Menzel, secretary, Sue Henderson, treasurer, Bob Walker, NH Chair, and Bobbie Fillioe, Guild Store Manager. The position of CT Chair is vacant at the moment. If you would like to volunteer or have someone to recommend, please contact me.

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank you to all the Board members who are continuing in their positions. Your dedication and experience are of great value.

And for all you ringers and directors in Area I, call or e-mail your state chair, tell them thank you, and ask them how you can help.

Have a wonderful fall and a blessed Christmas,

Sue Chamberlin, Chair, Area I

Reports of Liaisons and State Chairs

Atlantic Provinces

After our return from F/C 2001 in Vermont, our bell ringers in Truro, NS, were "wound up" with enthusiasm. Most choirs have started up again this fall in our area and we are always encouraged when we hear the exciting plans that our new chime loan recipients have for their schools.

I had the privilege of delivering the 3 octave set of chimes to Ms. Danielle Batstone this summer and was able to give her a little instruction on the use and care of the chimes. She is a very enthusiastic music educator and plans were made to try to get together later in the fall with one of our choirs at St. James for a mini concert.

A newsletter was recently sent to all AGEHR members and dropped members as well as all other bell choirs we are aware of in the Atlantic Provinces. We continue to promote AGEHR in these letters and hope our connection will help to increase active membership.

Joy Miller, Atlantic Provinces Co-Chair

More AGEHR Area I Officers

State/Provincial Chairs

Atlantic Provinces **Joy Miller** (902-893-0193)
canchair@agehrarea1.org
(Canadian):
Co-Chairs **Elizabeth MacLaren** (902-895-1743)
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Connecticut: **TBA**
ctchair@agehrarea1.org
Maine: **Bunny Stanley** (207-549-5187)
mechair@agehrarea1.org
Massachusetts: **Martha Goodman** (781-255-7769)
machair@agehrarea1.org
New Hampshire: **Bob Walker** (603-859-6717)
nhchair@agehrarea1.org
Rhode Island: **Lori Kast** (401-727-4585)
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Vermont: **Phil Brown** (802-748-8150)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference **Lori Kast** (401-727-4585)
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Chair
Historian/Archivist: **Daniel K. Moore** (401-438-4299)
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Maine

Choirs in Maine are just beginning to get back to practicing.

The Parish Ringers are working diligently on the Maine Spring Ring. It will tentatively be held March 23, 2002 at Bowdin College. Dan Moore has accepted the invitation to be one of the conductors. More information regarding the Spring Ring will be sent to Maine bell ringers as soon as information is available.

Welcome the New Harbor and Round Pond Methodist Church's "new" handbell choir! It seems that several years ago they had a bell choir and for one reason or another the bells got put away for several summers. They have recently hired an organist/music director who will be starting the bell choir this fall.

The Parish Ringers will be performing at Portland City Hall on December 18, 2001 during the Christmas With Cornils program. If other bell choirs have concerts they are performing during the year, please let me know. I would be happy to get them posted on the AGEHR Web site.

Bunny Stanley, ME State Chair

New Hampshire

My report to the Area I Board and Area I members will be brief. It is with sadness and regret that I have elected to resign my position as the New Hampshire State Chair. This was not an easy decision for me to make. I have enjoyed the past two years. I have met many terrific people, made some new friends, and learned much. When I began my term, the New Hampshire handbell community had been in a relatively inactive phase for quite some time. But over the past two years we have accomplished a great deal. We have held two Spring Rings, a Back-to-Basics workshop, several Director's Roundtable discussions, a conducting workshop, and hosted several Area I events. These events could not have taken place without the work and cooperation of many people. It is my hope that New Hampshire directors will continue to gather together, to share ideas, mentor new directors, develop new directing/ringing workshops and performing opportunities. Although I am stepping down from the NH Chair position, I still plan to be active within the handbell community and look forward to helping and supporting the next NH State Chair. I want to thank the Area I Board, and in particular Ed Henderson for the opportunity to serve AGEHR in such a wonderful way. It has been an honor to work with the other State Chairs and the members of the Executive Board. We,

as members of Area I, are blessed to have such a talented, dedicated group of people lead us.

Cindy Headley, NH State Chair

Rhode Island

This year, the Rhode Island ringing community celebrates five years of two very successful programs: the fall "Back to Bells" skill-building program and the "Spring Ring". We thank all those ringers and directors who have participated in the first four years of these events - YOU have made these program such a success and we are grateful for your support!

The Fifth Annual "Back to Bells" workshop was, once again, a tremendous success on September 28-29. Rhode Island thanks Calvary United Methodist Church in Middletown - specifically Betty Serls and Wendy Drysdale - for hosting this event.

The Friday night Repertoire Reading session was attended by 25 ringers - the repertoire was selected for the Fifth Annual Rhode Island "Spring Ring". Thanks goes to Dan Moore for leading this great evening of sight reading music and making decisions for the next event!

Saturday's "Back to Bells" workshops were attended by 75+ ringers and directors - sight reading, creative ringing, beginner ensembles, musicality, bell assignments - what a day it was! A special thanks goes to our clinicians for the day: Carolyn Gardner, Dan Moore, Beverly Simpson and Andy Wallace. A sharing session closed the day's activities, featuring ensembles which came together for the first time earlier in the day. The "Back to Bells" ringers also performed as a part of the sharing session, ringing favorites from Festival Conference 2001.

The Fifth Annual Rhode Island "Spring Ring" is set for Saturday, April 6, 2002; the location is to be determined. The massed conductor for this celebration event will be Dan Moore (who also hosted Rhode Island's first Spring Ring in 1996). Individuals and choirs are invited to participate in this fun day of ringing! Contact the RI State Chair if you live outside of Rhode Island and desire registration information.

Lori Kast, RI State Chair

Vermont

Events scheduled for 2002 are:

Directors Roundtable - January 26, 2002: The location for this annual event has not yet been determined. We

will be getting a head start on the Vermont Spring Ring massed music in addition to renewing friendships and sharing joys and concerns.

Vermont Youth Ring - Saturday, April 6, 2002. Lynne Welsh is chairing this event which will be held in Manchester, VT. Directors and music are still to be determined.

Vermont Spring Ring - April 26 and 27, 2002 in Barre, VT. Christine Litchfield is chairing this event, Kathy Brown has agreed to serve as registrar, Bev Hutchins will be leading the Hospitality Crew and Nancy Reynolds is handling publicity. Paul McKlveen will be the clinician/massed director for this event.

Phil Brown, VT State Chair

Report of the Bradford Endowment Chair

Available Funds: According to figures recently received from Marie Loeffler, there is \$1,526.87 available for scholarships for the coming year. Our Guidelines specifically state that "Disbursements will be limited to the interest accrued as of the September/October Treasurer's Report" so the current figure still contains proceeds from last fall's run up of the market. The full effect of recent events and the 2001 market tumble will not be seen until next September. This could be unfortunate, as the September 2002 figure is the one that will provide scholarships for the 2003 Festival/Conference.

The funds available as of this report are designated to provide scholarships for new directors to attend the national AGEHR Directors Seminar, July 18 - 23, 2002 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Advertising: Application information is on page 5. The Bradford Scholarship has its own page on our Web site. Probably our best advertising is the "direct" kind, from State Chairs directly to individual directors. We need more of this kind of promotion.

Recap: The overseers of the Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship Fund were exceptionally privileged to be able to work with a significant amount of money this year for scholarship awards. The actual scholarship funds represent only the proceeds (interest and dividends) from the Bradford Endowment and are therefore subject to the variations of the economy. The booming economy of 1999 and 2000, plus the fact that there were no applications for scholarships in 2000, provided over \$2800 available for scholarships for 2001. Scholarship awards were made to the following choirs:

To attend the 2001 Area-I Young Ringers Festival:

- Jubilant Spirits, First Congregational Church, Manchester, VT, Lynne Welsh, director.

To attend the 2001 Area-I Festival/Conference:

- Hancock Village Ringers, First Congregational Church, Hancock, NH, Sarah Hale, director;
- College Street Ringers, College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, VT, Phyllis Atherton, director;
- Ledyard Congregational Church Handbell Choir, Ledyard, CT, David Warfield, director;
- Jubellation, Wesley United Methodist Church, Concord, NH, Julie Runnells, director.

Although the members of the Bradford Scholarship Committee serve anonymously, I would like to thank them for their willingness to serve and for their thoughtful consideration.

Phil Brown, Bradford Scholarship Chair

Report of the National Board Meeting

The AGEHR National Board met immediately following the first Handbell Spectacular, held in Palm Springs, July 24-29, 2001.

President Karen E. Leonard opened the meeting by informing the Board that the Executive Committee had just accepted the resignation of Executive Director, Vic Kostenko. At that point, the agenda was put aside and the Board pulled together to brainstorm what needed to be done immediately, and in the long term. Bill Griffin was asked to take on the interim Executive Directorship. Suggestions were made for a search committee. Karen and Beth made arrangements to stop by the Dayton office on the way home to help the staff revamp. An overwhelming number of details arose over the next few days, and weeks.

It was decided that the Restructuring that AGEHR has done is a great beginning for further strengthening of the Guild by continuing this process. This will be a good time to redefine the Executive Director's role and relationship to the Board, and to rework the Board's governance policies, based on the theories of John Carver on "Boards that Work". To that end, plans are being made to have the full Board meet again at what was planned to be a Strategic Planning meeting in November.

On other business, Nancy Lutz, Area II Rep was voted in as the representative on the Executive Committee.

Most Board committees gave abbreviated reports. The full Publications report will appear in the Sept/Oct Overtones. Bob Jackson stated that the Ringer Education Department is developing. Doug Benton announced that the Director Education Department is evaluating resource materials, and that the Certification Committee had 37 persons at Spectacular take the pilot test for Level I Directors. The Participant Fee committee report came up twice for consideration, but was tabled to be dealt with at a future meeting when there would be more time to discuss it.

The mega event for the Guild's 50th anniversary will be held in Historic Norfolk, Virginia, July 24-27, 2004, with the theme of "Let's Celebrate".

Karen James, Area I Representative

Bradford Scholarships Encourage New Choirs and Directors

AGEHR, Area I, Inc., established the Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund several years ago to provide scholarship assistance to encourage new choirs to attend Festival/Conference and new directors to attend the national educational event so they might become more active members of the guild. Only the income from the endowment is used for scholarships, but this is enough to provide partial registration assistance for several choirs/directors each year. There are two types of scholarships available (Directors Scholarships will be available in 2002).

Directors Scholarships: Available to Area I Handbell Choir Directors attending their first AGEHR national educational event. The 2002 event is the AGEHR Directors Seminar, July 18 - 23, 2002 in Des Moines, Iowa.

1. The director must be an AGEHR member or represent an AGEHR member choir.
2. The director should provide some indication as to how attendance at Seminar will enhance her/his local choir and the Area I handbell community.
3. Directors are encouraged to take advantage of the college credit option which is now offered at these events.

Choir Scholarships: Are available to Area I Handbell Choirs attending their first AGEHR, Area I Festival/Conference. Scholarship applications for the 2003 Area I Festival/Conference, June 26-29, 2003 in Amherst, MA will be accepted during the fall of 2002.

1. A choir will be defined as a performing group of 7

or more ringers.

2. Preference will be shown to those choirs having at least 75% of their members planning to attend the Festival/Conference.
3. Prior attendance by a director or single member of a choir will not preclude eligibility for this scholarship.
4. The choir must be a member of AGEHR.
5. Youth choirs attending their first Young Ringers Festival are also eligible.

Those interested in applying for scholarship assistance should send a letter of application to the Chair of the Overseers. The current chair of this committee is Phil Brown, P.O. Box 53, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819; e-mail: 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. If applying for a Directors Scholarship, please include a resume. Programs, clippings, etc. may be sent as well. All applications will be acknowledged.

The deadline for applications is January 31 of each year. The guidelines provide for an extension if no applications are received by the deadline; however, barring this unlikely event, only applications post-marked by January 31 will be considered for scholarships. Awards are usually announced by February 28.

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 set of Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund guidelines contact Phil Brown or visit the Area I Web page.)

For questions or further information contact Phil Brown at kbbp@together.net or call 802-748-3894.

From the Historian's Trunk

Many thanks to the many Area I visitors to the Historian's displays in Burlington and at Camp Ogontz. As a result of those displays, many members of our ringing community had some wonderful recollections to share. The Area I archives are rich in the early history of AGEHR and of our founder, Margaret Shurcliff. I'll do my best to bring interesting artifacts from the collection to future events. In the meanwhile, don't be hesitant about sending along copies of programs and/or photos of ringing events you have participated in. We need to keep the collection current.

Area I donated some duplicate items from the collec-

tion to the AGEHR National Endowment Fund silent auction this past summer. The auction was part of the Handbell Spectacular event in Palm Spring, CA. Our donation received a \$100 bid from Dr. Herbert Geisler, Irvine, CA.

This month's history quiz: How many current or former Area I members are published composers/arrangers of handbell music?? Think you know the answer? There is a prize for the first e-mailed correct response: historian@agehrarea1.org

Dan Moore, Historian

Hand Chime Loan Program

The Handchime Loan Program is off to a great beginning for the school year 2001-2002. Over the summer AGEHR AREA I was able to purchase two new sets of chimes, one from Schulmerich and one from MalMark, making a total of 4 sets for New England and one set for Canada.

Three of these sets have been placed in the following schools:

1. Isle LaMotte Elementary School in Vermont. The teacher at the school is Marilyn Havens. Students there have music one day per week, for between 35 and 60 minutes depending on age and grade of student. It is a small school with 36 children in grades K through 6. Marilyn states that her dream "is to have a group of players with a concert we could take to other schools to introduce them to the use of chimes". She also mentions that "the chime program offers us a pathway to connect with a larger world of music and offers a great opportunity to build self esteem".
2. Lonsdale Elementary School of Lincoln, RI. This school is for grades 2-6. Stephen Carroll is the Volunteer Chime Director there.
3. The Griswold School System in Connecticut. The teacher is Brian Sturm.

We have one set of chimes waiting to be placed in New England. If you know of a music teacher interested in this program, please have them contact me at 207-549-5187. I will be glad to send them an application. Applications are also available on the www.AGEHRAREA1.org Web site.

Danielle Batstone from the Aldershot Elementary School in Kentville, Nova Scotia has applied to use the chimes in Canada. This is a P-6 school with students ranging in age from 5-12. Most students receive two 25

minute music sessions per week. Danielle states "handchimes are such a powerful tool in teaching team work, reading skills and offering a challenge for more motivated students".

Catherine Jamieson of Bridgewater, N. S. has volunteered to help us with the Handchime program in Canada. Many thanks Catherine!

Bunny Stanley

Are You a People Person?

Do you like playing or directing handbells? Do you like meeting new people and sharing your enthusiasm for handbells? Then WE WANT YOU!

We are looking for a number of people throughout Area 1 who would be willing to act as a "Greeter" for a new AGEHR member living near you. Each month we receive a list of new members. We would then scan the list of "Greeters" for the closest geographic match. If your name comes up, we would contact you to see if you are willing at that particular time to help us. If you are willing, we would then provide you with the new members name and contact point.

A welcome call from you to the new member to introduce yourself, answer any questions, encourage, support and possibly share ideas from your own choir is what we would ask of you. You might also encourage attending a workshop or reading session with you.

This doesn't have to be an every week commitment. It is our hope that current members willing to share friendship, encouragement and experiences with new members will inspire them to continue with the organization and possibly go on to help another new member in the future.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing or if you have more questions, please contact me at:

janesjazz@aol.com
(860) 464-2873
18 Robin Hood Drive
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Thank you very much. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Nolan, Area 1 Membership Chair

Coming Events

October 20, 2001: Northern Fall Reading Session, Northwood School, Northwood, NH.

November 10, 2001: Area I, High School Ring Out, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wachusett Regional High School in Holden, MA.

December 18, 2001: The Parish Ringers will be performing at the Portland City Hall during the Christmas With Cornils program.

January 26, 2002: VT Directors' Roundtable. Location to be announced.

February 1-2, 2002: Area I Winter Directors' Seminar, Sheraton Hotel, Nashua, NH. The clinician is Dr. Jim Smith of Texas. For more information, contact Cyndi Arbor (arbour@facil.umass.edu). See enclosed flyer.

March 9, 2002: Tenth Annual Massachusetts Youth Spring Ring.

March 16, 2002: Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival in Tewksbury, MA. Contact Ed Henderson (arearep@agehrea1.org) or Karen Leonard (WCUMCKEL@aol.com) for details.

March 23, 2002: Maine Spring Ring at Bowdin College sponsored by the Parish Ringers. Dan Moore will be one of the conductors. (Date is tentative)

April 6, 2002: Vermont Youth Ring in Manchester, VT. Lynne Welsh is chair of the event. Directors and music to be determined.

April 6, 2002: Fifth Annual Rhode Island Spring Ring. Repertoire and location to be announced. Dan Moore will be the massed conductor.

April 26 and 27, 2002: Vermont Spring Ring in Barre, VT. Paul McKlveen will be the clinician/massed director for this event.

June 26-29, 2003: Area I Festival/Conference in Amherst, MA

Area I New Members

Please welcome these new members to Area I:

David Bates, Newington, CT
Susan Grindell, Middleton, RI
Carol Kana, Riverside, CT
Sally Mulligan, East Hampton, CT
Peggy Prew, New London, NH
Lois Toepfner, Sudbury, MA
Handbell Director, First Baptist Church, Burlington, VT

Bulletin Board

Dear Sirs (message forwarded by Debra LeBrun)

I am a pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Belo Horizonte, Brazil. For long time we are very eager to buy a handbell set to our church here in Brazil. We know that the brand new set will be very expensive for us. We want to know where to buy a used set in good shape. Can you help us to suggest where?

Thank you very much for your kindness

Yours,
Rev. Ludgero Morais
First Presbyterian Church of Belo Horizonte
ludgero.bh@terra.com.br


Area I's Video Library

To make use of Area I's library of tapes and videos, contact Wendy Lewis (508-668-3826) or e-mail her at video@agehrea1.org.

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David A. Stadig, District Manager

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Newsletter of AGEHR Area I
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Deadline for Fall
Fundamental Tone:
January 19, 2002

First Class

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Visit the Area I Web site at: www.agehrarea1.org