

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.
American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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

Volume XVII, No. 3

May 2003

AGEHR Area I Officers

Elected Officers

Chair:

Sue Chamberlin
(603-942-7884)
chair@agehrarea1.org

Chair-Elect:

Debra LeBrun
(978-692-1309)
chairelect@agehrarea1.org

Area I Rep:

Ed Henderson
(978-851-3024)
arearep@agehrarea1.org

Secretary:

Sue Menzel
(508-366-2000)
secretary@agehrarea1.org

Treasurer:

Sue Henderson
(978-851-3024)
treasurer@agehrarea1.org

National Liaisons

Handbells In Education:

Bunny Stanley
(207-549-5187)
education@agehrarea1.org

*Handbells for Special
Groups:*

Nancy Reynolds
(802-748-4760)

Chairs and appointed
officers listed on page 2.

Syllables from Sue

Thank you to all of you who made the effort to send in your votes concerning the AGEHR change in bylaws and new Area I officers. It's not too late to cast your vote for AGEHR's new board of directors. If you haven't voted, see if you can find that envelope, and mail your ballot today.

By the time you read this, the Spring Rings will all be fond memories (except for the Vermont Youth Ring that was snowed out on April 5th), but there are other events coming up.

Festival/Conference '03 will bring together over 800 ringers from as far away as California. If you have registered for F/C, then I look forward to seeing you there. If you did not register, there are two concerts that you might want to attend. The opening concert will be presented by the Raleigh Ringers on Thursday, June 26th at 8 PM in the Fine Arts Center at UMass, Amherst. The cost is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors, free for F/C participants, with tickets available only at the door. The closing massed concert for F/C will be Sunday, June 29th at 3 PM in Mullins Arena on UMass campus in Amherst. A free will offering will be taken. If you have never heard 800 ringers playing together, then you have missed a wonderful experience. I encourage you to come.

Area I is hosting the National Directors' Seminar in Hartford, CT this July. We don't often have the opportunity to meet with nationally known directors and composers so close to home. Registration materials were in Overtones, and can also be found on the AGEHR Web site, www.agehr.org.

Family Handbell Camp is coming up in August — there is still time to

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register for this relaxing handbell vacation. Registration forms are included in this Fundamental Tone, and more information can be found on Area I's Web site at www.agehrarea1.org.

Enjoy the spring weather! And keep on ringing!

Sue Chamberlin, Area I Chair

Reports from State Chairs

Atlantic Provinces

Hello from the Atlantic Provinces. I apologize for the delay in sending this report, however computer internet problems have prevented any e-mail sending or receiving for the past week. In fact any recent reports that have been sent to me I would have lost - so if there is anything urgent that I should address please re-send the e-mail. Computers are wonderful when they work, but we all have experienced the frustrations when they do not work!!

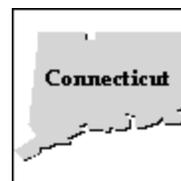
I am happy to report that at least three AGEHR choirs or parts of choirs are planning to attend the Festival/Conference in June. (It is strange that I never did receive by regular mail the registration packet for the conference- I wonder if all other Canadian choirs received their packets? I know Sue sent it twice but I never did receive anything. I was however able to download the application that was sent to me via e-mail from Sue and made copies for other AGEHR choirs in the area. Perhaps mail is having trouble getting through.)

I spoke to our chime loan recipient Danielle Batstone this past month to follow up on how her chime program

is working in her new school. She has been able to use the chimes with the majority of her P-6 graders and has used them for Remembrance Day Service, Christmas Concerts and planning to make use of them in her Spring Concert. She will also be taking her chime choir to the local High School to play in their band concert. This will be a new exposure for the chimes as the band director has never heard the chimes before.

Sorry that neither Elizabeth or I could attend this meeting. Health and family conflicts are keeping us home. I am, however, looking forward to seeing you all at festival conference.

Joy Miller, Canadian Co-Chair



Updates on handbell groups throughout the state:

The High School Handbell Choir and Handbell Ensemble at Hartford Christian Community in West Hartford both placed first in the Connecticut Association of Christian Schools Fine Arts Competition on March 14, and this permitted them to compete nationally at the American Association of Christian Schools at Bob Jones University in South Carolina from April 8 through April 10. I haven't had an update as to how they did! Their director tells me that for the past several years their Handbell Choir has taken first, second, or third place on the National Level when competing with other states; this is the first year they

More AGEHR Area I Officers

State/Provincial Chairs

Atlantic Provinces
(Canadian): **Joy Miller** (902-893-0193)
Co-Chairs: **Elizabeth MacLaren** (902-895-1743)
Connecticut: **Susan Wilber** (203-407-4189)
Maine: **Bunny Stanley** (207-549-5187)
Massachusetts: **Martha Goodman** (781-255-7769)
New Hampshire: **TBA**
Rhode Island: **Lori Kast** (401-727-4585)
Vermont: **Phil Brown** (802-748-8150)

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference Chair: **Lori Kast** (401-727-4585)
Historian/Archivist: **Daniel K. Moore** (401-438-4299)
Membership: **Jane Nolan** (860-464-2873)
Guild Store Manager: **Bobbie Fillioe** (802-438-2974)
Publications: **Ruth H. Bowers** (978-922-8137)
Video Librarian: **Bobbie Fillioe** (802-438-2974)

have competed with an ensemble and have obviously been quite successful! Both groups were also part of the school's Spring Concert on April 4.

Joyce Bridgman's Victory Chimes Bell Choir rings regularly at least once per month in her church. Her group has also gone to a home school assembly for a demonstration and a talk about teamwork and also to a local physics class for a class/discussion on sound (different!).

Jean Degan reports that the Wheeler School Concert Handbell Ringers did their opening tour concert at her church and reports that the performance was "awesome as usual".

Rick Wood's Messengers will be participating in The Perkins School for the Blind Festival at Old South Church in Boston on May 20th, and will hold their 8th Annual Handbell Concert in their church on Sunday June 8. They are planning to perform many of the Festival/Conference pieces.

The big news in Connecticut this spring is the performance by the Raleigh Ringers in Avon (arranged by Joyce Bridgman) on June 25, the day before their opening concert at Festival/Conference. Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$7 per child with a maximum of \$25 per family. All are encouraged to attend – particularly those who are not going to be able to see this group perform at the Festival/Conference.

Jean Degan is hard at work coordinating the National Directors' Seminar in Hartford in July and she has had a good response from Connecticut members who are willing to help out for that event. We are hoping to be able to schedule an empty room for Connecticut ringers at Festival/Conference for discussion time.

I am hoping to see many Connecticut ringers up at UMASS in June!

Susan Wilber, CT State Chair



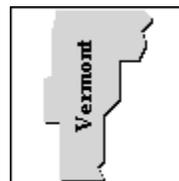
Thanks goes out to the 20 choirs that were represented at the 6th Annual RI "Spring Ring" on March 29. Over 125 ringers participated in this wonderful learning and ringing event, with massed ringing under the direction of Jane Nolan. It was a memorable day, and we specifically thank Priscilla Rigg, director of handbell programs, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East

Greenwich, and Carolyn Gardner, ringer-extraordinaire, for tending to the details of this event.

Handbell workshops for 2003-2004 have been planned and a brochure is available to anyone interested. Ringer workshops will be held in September and November, director workshops will be held in January, 2004 and the 7th Annual RI "Spring Ring" will be held on March 27, 2004. To get your own copy of the workshop brochure, contact State Chair Lori Kast at (401) 727-4585 or e-mail her at kaszoo@aol.com Each workshop is limited to the first 13 registrants (\$10 per ringer) and the workshop is from 9am - noon. Several different topics are offered on each of the dates.

The Rhode Island Handbell Advisory (RIHAB) has been formed to administer an annual program of handbell instruction programs, to provide guidance and support for existing handbell programs, and to assist in the development of new handbell opportunities within the state. Current members of the board are: Deb Federico, Carolyn Gardner, Lori Kast, Gail Keinard, Renee LaMontagne, Dan Moore, Priscilla Rigg and Barbara Ward.

Lori Kast, RI State Chair



2003 Events:

Directors' Roundtable - January 25, 2003, at the A.D. West Lebanon Congregational Church, W. Lebanon, NH. This event was held the last Saturday of January to help directors get a head start on the Vermont Spring Ring massed music. Twelve directors attended and a good workshop was led by Jerilyn Bergdahl and Phil Brown.

Vermont Youth Ring 2003 - Was cancelled due to snow! The event will be held next year on April 3, 2004. Directors, music and location will remain the same.

Vermont Spring Ring 2003 - April 25 & 26, 2003, at the Lawton School, Essex Jct., VT. As of April 18th 258 ringers representing 27 choirs from VT, NH and MA were registered for Vermont Spring Ring. The host committee, including Carolyn Harris, Sally Yankee, David Ashley, Sylvia Stebbens and Kathy Brown met for a site visit in February and details were put into

place. Spring Ring was held at the A. D. Lawton Middle School in Essex Jct., VT. Jane Anderson from First Baptist Church in Topeka, KS served as clinician. Jane also led a Directors' Workshop on Friday night. The workshop featured reading through several resources for creative use of Handbells in Worship. The Saturday ring included a massed rehearsal with several ringer level class offered during the extended lunch break. Classes included Treble Bell Techniques, SHMURFing!, Experiencing Our Selves Through Our Bodies, Directing Techniques, Handbells in Worship, and a reading session. The final concert was held at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Looking ahead:

Vermont Spring Ring 2004 - April 23 & 24, 2004, in Manchester Center, VT. We are thrilled that Michael Helman has agreed to serve as clinician for Vermont's 2004 Spring Ring. Lynne Welsh has agreed to serve as facilities chair and to host the ring in Manchester Center, VT. Lynne is currently researching the gym size in the high school and elementary school to determine the best site option. The rest of the committee still needs to be assembled.

Phil Brown, VT Chair

Report from the National Representative

Well, it is official, the Guild's new by-laws have now been accepted by the voting membership. And as a result, you should have received by now a ballot to vote for the first slate of officers of the "new" Board of Directors. This is an exciting time as, under the direction of President Karen Leonard, the Guild has effectively moved to a new way of doing business, far more appropriate to our needs. Please take your membership seriously and exercise your right to vote.

Our Executive Director, Jane Mary Tenhover has now established an Advisory Council and your Area I Chair, Sue Chamberlin and I have been asked to participate in the first meeting which will be held in July at the National Directors' Seminar.

One of the Guild's strong suits has always been high quality events that offer members the opportunity to learn from the best. And the coming months offer numerous opportunities. In June, you could go to California for a Master Class on Conducting with Bill Payn. In July, you can go right down the street to Hartford, CT for the National Directors' Seminar. In October, bronze level ringers can go to Distinctly

Bronze in SC to ring with the "best" under the direction of the "best".

And electronically speaking - check out the Guild's updated Web site including the new "members only" area. The address is unchanged at www.agehr.org. And add your name to the growing list of thousands of ringers who receive regular electronic notes on-line from our national membership chair, Sara Smith.

The Guild is on the move!!!

See you at UMASS at Festival/Conference '03 in just a couple of weeks!

Ed Henderson, Representative to the National Board of Directors

What Can I Expect at Festival/Conference 2003?

As you continue to work on repertoire for the upcoming Festival/Conference, I know you are wondering what new and exciting things will be available for you this year... Your Festival/Conference Committee has been working hard to bring you a few new things this year! In

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addition to the AGEHR quilt that we are constructing (don't forget to bring your completed square along with you), new features include the following:

- A barbecue cookout for dinner on Friday (we'll hope for good weather)
- Box lunches will be provided this year, to help accommodate the busy schedule on Saturday
- A carillon concert will be presented on Saturday during the lunch hour (so you can take your box lunch outside and enjoy the music and fresh air)
- Bells for the Birds will also include a "Fitness Walk" for those who like the fresh air and early morning "power walk"
- Tours of the UMASS carillon (yes, that's right, all the way up in the bell tower) will be available for the curious and not-so-faint of heart and limb
- Open Registration classes on Thursday afternoon include "Meet the Conductors" – your chance to meet and chat with our guest conductors, Karen Buckwalter and Tim Waugh
- Raleigh Ringer tapes, CDs, shirts and other goodies will be available for you to purchase after the opening concert - you'll also be able to get a few autographs!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Bradford Scholarship Awards

Scholarship awards for 2003 were made in two rounds. The first round was awarded to applicants that responded by the published deadline of January 31, 2003. There were three qualified 1st round applications for choir scholarships to Festival/Conference.

Second round awards were made to applicants who submitted qualified applications by the extended deadline date of February 28, 2003. There was one choir application and three director applications in the 2nd round.

The following awards were made for 2003:

- Grace Notes of the First Congregational Church of Essex, CT
- Union Church of Stowe, MA Bell Choirs
- Victory Chimes Bell Choir of Avon, CT
- Handbell Choir of Clifton Lutheran Church in Marblehead, MA
- Rita Dusseau, Bedford, NH

Judith Munger, Norwich, VT
Alan Rechel, Tewksbury, MA
Cheryl Harger, Essex, CT

Phil Brown, Bradford Scholarship Chair

Raleigh Ringers

Hold onto your programs and get ready to blast into this summer's Area I Festival/Conference. The Raleigh Ringers, as part of an east coast tour starting in Pennsylvania and ending in Amherst, will entertain festival-goers on Thursday night with unbelievable music and unforgettable stage presence! Then, on Friday, they will teach classes and answer your every question about handbell techniques, touring and trivia!

The Raleigh Ringers is an internationally-recognized advanced community handbell choir consisting of auditioned musicians under the leadership of David M. Harris. Organized in 1990, the Raleigh Ringers perform on seven-and-one-half octaves of Malmark handbells, five octaves of Whitechapel handbells, three octaves of Petit & Fritsen handbells, five-and-one-half octaves of Malmark handchimes, four octaves of Whitechapel Cup Bells, and two octaves of Schulmerich Silver Melody Bells.

In November 1995, the group released its first compact disc simply titled, "The Raleigh Ringers". Since then, the group has released several additional CDs followed, in 2002, by public release of the group's first surround-sound DVD titled, "One Winter Evening at Meymandi".

The public is invited to attend the 8:00 p.m. Opening Concert on Thursday, June 26, 2003 at the UMASS/Amherst Fine Arts Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$10 (adults) and \$5 (students/seniors). General seating is available and there are no advance ticket sales. Participants in the Area 1 Festival will be admitted free of charge. For more information about the Raleigh Ringers, visit their Web site: www.rr.org

The Raleigh Ringers

Music Director: David M. Harris
8516 Sleepy Creek Drive
Raleigh, NC 27613
(919) 847-RLRG (7574) phone/fax
email: rringer@rr.org
www.rr.org



• sacred and secular music • a community handbell choir

Handchimes in My Classroom

I am the general music teacher at The Dorset School in Dorset, Vermont, I applied for and received three octaves of chimes last September as part of the chime-loaner program sponsored by the Area I Chapter of the AGEHR (American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.) As the Director of Handbell Choirs at my church in Manchester, I have been a member of this organization since 1982. I was aware of the hand chime loaner program, but I was not teaching music in school until two years ago.

Using the handchimes in my classroom has been inspiring for me and my students. I have used them from Kindergarten through 6th grade and expect their use to "grow" into the seventh and eighth grade classrooms as the younger students move into middle school. Without exception the students were excited about using them right from the start. One can make beautiful music instantly with handchimes as chordal accompaniment to singing. I wrote familiar songs on the board and used colored markers to circle words on which the harmony changed—different colors for different chords. (I carried that same idea into middle

school lessons about I, IV and V chords.)

I used the chimes as part of pre-recorder activities in third grade. I gave each child a B, A, or G chime (there are 3 of each) and we read BAG in various rhythms and melodies. We played BAG songs with piano and CD accompaniment. The extra students used the "leftover" chime notes to create chords as accompaniment to the B-A-G melody.

The sixth grade students learned about ensemble ringing during their first class. They were not music readers—I circled their chime notes on the music—they each were responsible for two consecutive notes and their accidentals. The students were responsible for counting, following the score, reading their rhythms, memorizing page turns, etc. It was magical that both of my nearly all-boy sixth grade classes came together as an ensemble and performed in December with very little rehearsal and then again in March with some fairly concentrated rehearsals. The most interesting compliments from parents and staff audience members were their comments about the remarkable concentration exhibited by the students as they played.

I have some special needs students in my classes who are very successful members of their class chime

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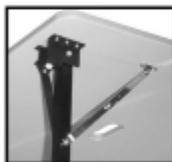
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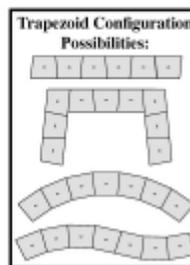
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lessons. It is fairly easy to strike the chime so even if a student may be challenged in the area of motor skills and could never, say, play a melodic instrument in the band, they are very much a part of the beautiful melodic sound of chimes. Any students who are behavior challenged who might be part of those ensembles have to really concentrate on playing their notes in the melodic (or harmonic) line—they realize they are part of a team and for the team to succeed, they must stay focused.

The chime-loaner program is a wonderful gift to music education in my classroom. And of course, there is not nearly time enough to implement them. Thank you, thank you, AGEHR!

Lynne Welsh, March 2003

You're Invited: Closing Concert 2003 Festival/Conference

The culmination of the Area I 2003 Festival/Conference will be the closing concert on Sunday, June 29 at 3:00 p.m. in Mullins Arena on the UMASS/Amherst campus. This event is sure to amaze your friends and families (who wouldn't be awed by over 800 ringers in the same place), so be sure to invite them to attend! The concert is FREE, however, a free-will collection is taken after the concert at the doors. The arena is air-conditioned, the audience seating is comfortable, and the entertainment is awesome — what better place to be on June 29?

Bulletin Board

First Church in Woodbridge, CT is looking for a Bell Choir Director to start in the fall and the position comes complete with a salary, the amount of which is negotiable. For further information, please contact Patti Smith at: First Church, Meeting House Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, or e-mail her at

Budgies4@hotmail.com

Talent - Talent - Talent

It's time to start planning the TALENT/VARIETY SHOW for the Festival/Conference 2003. We know

that there is a wealth of talent among our bell ringers and this is your time to shine! Dust off your tap shoes, get the frogs from your throat, practice those scales, toot your horn or do whatever you do best! We are currently receiving applications for auditions. Each act will be a maximum of five minutes and that includes set-up and breakdown. If you would like to be part of auditions, be the MC, or help with organizing any part of the show, please contact us. Linda and Jim Duncan, 5 School Street, Westborough, MA 01581. e-mail: Jamesfduncan@msn.com or 508-366-2091.

Area I New Members

Please welcome these new members to Area I:

Suzanne Bailey, Harrisville, RI
Frank Berry, Minot, ME
Judith Cassidy, Mansfield, MA
East Woodstock Congregational Church, Kristen Wedegis, East Woodstock, CT
Penney Memorial Baptist Church, Jennifer Mills, Augusta, ME
Unitarian Universal List, Judith Putnam, Danvers, MA

Professional Concerns Survey

We received many valuable responses from our survey (44, so far), but we would still like to have some more data. If you direct a handbell choir, whether or not you are paid for it, we would love to hear from you. So, if you still have not returned your survey please fill out the survey enclosed in this newsletter as soon as possible. We will have a report about the results available at the Festival/Conference and the Area I Board will use this as a starting point for developing Handbell Director Guidelines which can be used by handbell directors and their employers. Some things that are obvious from the results received so far are that many handbell directors work for little or no pay, almost all have a college education, many have an advanced degree, about 50% have music degrees, and there is a lot of variety among the handbell programs in our Area. Please let us know about your program and your position – You can remain anonymous.

Debra LeBrun

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

Coming Events in Area I

Date	Event	Location	Contact
5/20/03	23 rd Annual Handbell Festival	Old South Church Boston, MA	Perkins School for the Blind Adele Trytko, 617-972-7252, or e-mail: adeletytko@aol.com
6/26-29/03	Festival/Conference '03	Amherst, MA	Lori KAst, 401-727-4585 or kaszoo@aol.com
6/26/03 8:00 p.m.	Raleigh Ringers concert	UMASS, Amherst, MA Fine Arts Center	Tickets available at the door \$10 adults, \$5 students/seniors
6/29, 2003 3:00 p.m.	Closing Concert of Festival/Conference '03	UMASS, Amherst, MA Mullins Arena	Free will offering.
7/17-22/03	National Directors' Seminar	Hartford, CT	
8/9-13/03	Family Handbell Camp	Camp Ogontz Lisbon, NH	Linda Lamb, 603-886-1512 or linds.s.lamb@verizon.net
9/26-27/03	RI Back to Bells		Lori Kast, 401-727-4585 or kaszoo@aol.com
11/1/03	High School Ring Out,	Souhegan High School Nashua, NH	

Membership Form—The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

- Platinum Membership \$170.00
 Sterling Membership \$90.00
 Regular Membership \$55.00
 Ringer Membership \$22.00

Must be affiliated with a choir of a regular member.

Membership number of choir: _____

- Senior Citizen Membership (65+) \$37.00
 Individual membership, may not represent a group.
 Full-Time Student Membership \$37.00
 Business Membership \$110.00

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E-mail: _____

Name of Business/School/Church: _____

Is this a New Membership or Renewal

Membership #: _____

Credit Card Information Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Expiration Date: _____

FAMILY HANDBELL CAMP 2003 REGISTRATION WORKSHEET
AGEHR, AREA I, INC. at CAMP OGONTZ
August 9 – 13, 2003

Please mail your registration worksheet with check made payable to AGEHR, Area I, Inc. to:

AGEHR AREA I FAMILY HANDBELL CAMP
c/o Laura Arbour
27 Fuller St.
Belchertown, MA 01007
Email: laura523@junco.com
Phone: (413) 323-4076

Please, keep a copy for your records!

Adult Camper Responsible for this Family:

Name: _____ Town: _____
 Street Address: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____
 Day Phone: () _____ Evening Phone: () _____

AGEHR Membership # _____
 (or choir # with whom you are affiliated, or write GUEST)

Signature _____

Campers in this Group (including the person listed above)

Name	Relationship	Age (if under 18)	Camper Type (Check one)			Ringing Ability				Years of Ringing Experience	Check here if you are a bell choir director	
			Ringer	Non-Ringer	Youth Program (4-8yrs)	Children (0 - 3yrs)	Beg	Tins (level 1 - 2 music)	Coppers (level 2+ to 4 music)			Bronze (level 4 and up)

Can you provide any of the following? (small stipends will be paid to those providing equipment)
 Foam: yes/no # of feet: _____ Bells: yes/no # of octaves: _____
 Chimes: yes/no # of octaves: _____

Family Handbell Camp Registration 2003			
Directions: Please fill out section A or section B.			
A. Early Registration (postmarked by April 15th)	Number of people	Total	
Ringers: \$195			Non-ringers are all people who are not ringing including those in the youth program.
Non-ringers: \$145			
Children (0 - 3 yrs): \$117			
B. Regular Registration (postmarked by June 15th)			
Ringers: \$210			
Non-ringers: \$160			
Children (0 - 3 yrs): \$117			
C. Indoor Housing			
* 3 days: \$33			
or * 4 days: \$44			
D. Extra day: \$30			
Sub total			
E. Family discount for groups of four or more.	X .20	-	
Total Due			
Deposit (at least 50%)			
Remaining Balance (Due 7/1/02)			
Late fee After 6/15/02	Add \$20		
Total Due			



The Fundamental Tone is published four times a year (on the first Monday of February, May, August, November) by Area I of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. Deadline for submitting information for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. It is distributed from 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915. If you would like to place an advertisement in the Fundamental Tone, contact Ruth Bowers (RBowers@attbi.com or 978-922-8137).

Advertising rates are:

- Full page: \$80.00 (7" X 9.5")
- Half page: \$50.00 (7" X 4.5")
- Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.25" X 4.5")
- Eighth page: \$20.00 (3.25" X 2.2")
- Business Card: \$10 (3.25" X 1")

The advertisements must be camera ready although the preferred format is as a .jpg file.



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Spring/Summer performances!**

- April 26** Vermont Spring Ring, *Essex Junction, VT*
May 4 Concert, *First Congregational Church, Greenfield, MA*
June 26-29 Area I Festival/Conference '03, *Amherst, MA*
July 12-13 Concerts, *TBA*
July 22 Concert, National Director's Seminar, *Hartford, CT*

Repertoire includes secular and sacred music works by Karen Buckwalter, Fred Gramann, Michael Helman, Kevin McClesney, Paul McKlveen, Hart Morris, William A. Payn, and Arnold Sherman.

NER performs on five octaves of Schulmerich handbells and five octaves of Malmark handchimes.

Join "The Friends of NER" for more information and updates:
contact Cyndi Arbour at (413)774-2238 or arbour@facil.umass.edu

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Receiving your Fundamental Tone by e-mail assures that you will receive it in a timely manner and allows you to keep all of its valuable information on your computer. You can print out whatever you need when you need it.

Receiving your Fundamental Tone online also will help Area I to save postage costs and will help us all to conserve our natural resources.

If you would like to receive the Fundamental Tone by e-mail, please send an e-mail to editor@agehrarea1.org. The newsletter will be sent as an attachment in PDF format which can be read by Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free program available on the Web.

AGEHR, Area I, Inc.
Professional Concerns Survey for Handbell Directors

Dear Handbell Choir Director,

The Executive Board of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area I, Inc. has decided to do a survey of handbell director positions in Area I. We often receive inquiries from churches and/or handbell directors requesting guidelines for job descriptions, benefits, salaries, etc. As a first step toward dealing with this issue, we would like to have an understanding of the variety of handbell director positions in our Area: what they are, what they pay, if anything, what benefits are offered, etc. We plan on compiling the data received from this survey and preparing a report. Hopefully, this will act as a starting point for developing a booklet that offers guidelines for handbell director positions. We realize that many handbell directors work as volunteers. If you are in this category, be assured that we want your input also.

Please complete this 3 page survey and return it to the address on the back page. If you are a handbell director for more than one institution, please fill out two surveys. You may copy this survey and pass it on to other directors you know in Area I. The survey will also be on our Web site at www.agehrarea1.org. Please return surveys by **June 15, 2003**.

Thank You for your help with this project!

Debra LeBrun, Chair-Elect

1. Where do you work as a director? (Circle One)

Church Public School Private School College Community Choir

2. In which state or Canadian province do you work?

3. If you work at a church, circle the denomination:

Catholic Methodist UCC/Congregational Baptist Presbyterian
Unitarian-Universalist Lutheran Seventh-Day Adventist Other

4. If you work at a school, circle the type:

Elementary Middle School or Jr. High High School Multiple Grade Levels

Is this a private or public school?

5. What is your annual salary? (If your position includes duties other than handbell directing, estimate the portion of your salary that is for handbell directing duties.)

\$0 \$1-\$999 \$1,000-\$2,099 \$3,000-\$4,999 \$5,000-\$9,999 \$10,000-24,999 Over \$25,000

6. Approximately how many hours per week does your handbell directing position require?

7. What is your highest level of education:

High School Graduate Some College classes Undergraduate Degree Graduate Degree

9. Do you have a Degree in Music? Yes No

10. Do you work as a professional musician other than in handbells? Yes No

If yes, what else do you do?

11. Please fill out the table with information for each handbell choir you direct.

Type of choir (Adult, youth, intergenerational, etc.)	# of rehearsals per week	Length of each rehearsal

12. If your sole responsibility for this organization is as handbell director, do you get any of the following benefits? (Select all that apply)

- Paid Vacation
- Medical Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Paid Professional Leave
- Maternity Leave
- Continuing Education Exp.
- Other _____

13. Do your choirs ever play outside of your regular institution? Yes No

14. If yes, where? (You may select more than one.)

- Schools
- Churches
- Senior Citizen Centers
- Nursing Homes
- Malls
- Town or Community Events
- Handbell Festivals
- Tours
- Other _____

15. Does your choir ever receive any money when playing outside your own institution? Yes No

16. If you charge a fee, what is the average fee you charge per hour of performing?

17. Do you ever ask for a freewill donation?

18. Are you a current member of AGEHR? Yes No

19. Do you have a website for your handbell group or is your group advertised on your institution's web site?

Yes No

Web site address (optional) _____

Optional:

Name:

Address:

Town:

State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

If you would like a copy of the final report with a summary of the data, check here and include your address above:

Other Comments

Put
Stamp
Here

DEBRA LEBRUN
AGEHR, AREA I, INC. CHAIR-ELECT
68R STONY BROOK RD.
WESTFORD MA 01886