

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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

Volume XIX, No. 2

Winter 2005

AGEHR Area I Officers

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The Chair Chimes In

I hope you are all staying warm! Although we are in the midst of the cold winter months I want to remind you to "Think Spring!" There are many events happening in Area I this spring and summer. Take a look at the calendar in this issue of the newsletter and keep visiting the Area I Web site at www.agehrarea1.org. This is an Area I Festival year so our biennial Festival/Conference is scheduled for June 23-26 at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. Please read the article in this newsletter about the Festival/Conference.

As an Area I member you will have two important votes this year. Our biennial elections for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair-Elect will be taking place and you will need to vote on our revised bylaws. The revisions in the bylaws were made primarily to accommodate changes that occurred on the national level of AGEHR. Please keep an eye out for these mailings in the spring.

In addition to this important business, the Area I Board has been busy making plans for all the upcoming events and especially for our two new fall events: the "new" Area I Directors' Seminar and the "Skill Building Workshop" for ringers. We are excited about these new educational opportunities for our membership!

Many of our Area I events are appropriate for ringers to attend on their own, without their choir. Some examples are Family Handbell Camp, Adult Ringers Weekend, the Rhode Island Workshops and the new fall ringers' event. Unfortunately, some ringers never hear about these opportunities. Please, share the information you receive about these events with your ringers or simply let your ringers know about our Area I Web site and encourage them to visit it often. Even if you are too busy to attend events, your ringers can

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

benefit by attending events geared toward their needs. They will come back to you with better skills and more enthusiasm for ringing which will strengthen your handbell program.

Finally, I remind you to let us know how you want to receive your Fundamental Tone newsletter. Did you know that Area I does not receive any of your membership dues? Our only income is from special donations, events that we run, and interest that we receive on our investments. We want to use our limited resources to support programs that will benefit our membership, such as the chime loaner program, the Bradford Scholarships, and instituting new events. If you discard your newsletter shortly after receiving it and instead use our Web site to keep in touch with what is happening, then you can save us some of our valuable resources by opting to no longer receive a hard copy of the newsletter. You must let us know by April 1st if you still want to receive a newsletter by regular mail or if you would prefer to receive an e-mail notification with a link to the online newsletter. Please read the article about this in this newsletter and notify us about your preferences. We have only heard from 10% of our Area I membership so far, so we have a long way to go! We are happy to continue to send a newsletter to you by regular mail if that is what you prefer, but you need to let us know!

I hope to see many of you at events over the next few months!

Happy Ringing!

Debra LeBrun
Chair, AGEHR, Area I, Inc.

Reports

Connecticut

Connecticut will hold its first Spring Ring in several years at the Valley Community Baptist Church in Avon on Saturday, April 30. Jean Degan will be the clinician, and we have tried to plan something for everyone, including massed ringing of Festival/Conference 2005 pieces, and an additional repertoire session for those who are not going to Festival/Conference. Beginning and advanced classes will be offered, and the day will end with a mini-concert. The registration form is available on the Area I Web site.

Connecticut was very pleased and honored to have one of its handbell ensembles invited to perform at two of the inaugural events for the second term of President Bush!!! The Hartford Christian Academy High School Handbell Choir, under the direction of Dr. Michael Healan, performed entrance music for the guests at Candlelight Dinner #1 on Wednesday, January 19, at Union Station. The next night, they provided entrance music at the prestigious Freedom Ball at Union Station. There are twelve young people in this ensemble that practiced two hours per day on ten different pieces leading up to this event, and those of us in Connecticut are proud to have handbells represented from our state in this way. The group was also featured on two local news programs in the state during this inaugural week, and quite a demonstration was given on different handbell sounds and techniques, such as swings, martellatos, and mallets.

Susan Wilber, CT Chair

New Hampshire

The Area I Fall Reading Session was held on October 23, 2004. Diantha Dorman served as the clinician and 21 people attended including Diantha and me. In total 35 pieces of music were reviewed, \$72 of guild store stuff was sold, and \$950 of music was sold (after the

More AGEHR Area I Officers

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference Chair: **Debra J. LeBrun**
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richair@agehrarea1.org
Vermont: **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

20% discount). It was well received by all! ☺ Additionally, the lunch conversation included an informal discussion of the new format for reading sessions/directors' workshops. Most people were looking forward to the change but were concerned that we retain the reading session portion of these types of events (as we had anticipated).

Additionally, based on feedback from various Area I board members, individuals were contacted to form an activity board for NH. I'm pleased to announce that Rita Dusseau, Pat Anderson, Diantha Dorman, and Joan Fossum have agreed to serve as the NH activities board members. Tomi Salzmann may also participate with us.

Currently we expect our next activity to be a Festival/Conference music practice on a Saturday in late May or early June 2005. Phil Brown has offered to serve as the clinician and we are in the process of formalizing the rest of the details.

Emlee C. Kohler, NH Chair

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Handbell Advisory Board's workshop series continued on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Several workshops were offered to many enthusiastic ringers. Multiple Bell Techniques and Basic Ringing Techniques were the topics of the three hour sessions.

The Rhode Island annual Spring Ring will take place on Saturday, April 9 at the St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Greenwich. Ed Henderson, Director of the New England Ringers, will be our massed choirs director.

Andy Wallace, RI Chair

Vermont

Recent Events in Vermont:

- The *High School Ring Out* was held Nov. 6, 2004 at St. Johnsbury Academy in St. Johnsbury, VT. It was hosted by Phil Brown and directed by Karen James. The event was very successful.
- The *Bronze Ambassadors* high school choir from the United Christian Academy of Newport, VT, directed by Kim Strepka, was featured on live TV on the FOX 25 morning show on December 23, 2004. The choir played Kevin McChesney's "Green Blade" from memory.

Vermont Coming Events:

- *Directors' Roundtable*: January 29: West Lebanon Congregational Church, W. Lebanon, NH, hosted by Averill Tinker. This event is held the last Saturday of January to help directors get a head start on the Vermont Spring Ring massed music. A sharing

session will be held over lunch to renew friendships and discuss concerns. The afternoon session will be devoted to previewing the massed music for F/C '05.

- *Think Spring Mini-Rings*: Feb and March: Two mini-rings will take place: one in St. Johnsbury, hosted by Phil Brown, and the other in Burlington, hosted by the members of Northern Bronze. The mini-rings give ringers a chance to preview Vermont Spring Ring music in a more intimate group setting with up to six or seven choirs present. Depending on the number of directors involved, the ringers also get a chance to experience different directing strengths and styles.
- *Vermont Youth Ring 2005* – Saturday, April 9: Dothan Brook School, Hartford, VT. Averill Tinker has agreed to host this event and Phil Brown will direct the group. Last year and again this year, intermediate music was chosen to accommodate the choirs attending. Interactive games break up the ringing sessions and a pizza lunch will be provided.
- *"Bells on the Border" Vermont Spring Ring 2005* – April 29 & 30: North Country High School, Newport, VT. The host committee is Joy Toll-Chandler, Phil Brown, Kim Strepka, Kay Ellis, and Jerilyn Bergdahl. Newport is very close to the Vermont – Canadian border, the first time that the Vermont Spring Ring will be held so far north. The committee is working hard to promote the event and encourage ringers to attend. Deborah Rice from Winston-Salem, NC will serve as clinician and will also conduct the Reading Session. Five other classes will be provided during the noon break.

Jerilyn Bergdahl. VT Chair



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Festival/Conference 2005

June 23-26, 2005 at University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

This will be the best Festival/Conference yet! Our clinicians, Kath Wissinger and Dave Ruder, are both wonderful and enthusiastic conductors. The UNH campus is beautiful and the dorms, dining hall, ringing arena, and classroom buildings are much closer to each other than they were at the last Festival. The UNH conference services office has been great to work with and they are working hard to accommodate our needs. The repertoire is interesting and exciting and our list of classes is impressive with something for everyone. Don't miss this Festival!! If you want to receive a registration packet for Festival you need to let us know or you can visit the Web site at www.agehrarea1.org. The Early Bird registration deadline is March 15th. We have not increased the registration cost since last Festival – it is only \$275 per person for double occupancy if you register by the early bird deadline. That includes your housing, all meals from Thursday evening until Sunday afternoon, participation in classes and massed ringing, and a Festival t-shirt. You can request a packet by providing the information requested below in one of the following ways:



Thirteenth Annual
Massachusetts Youth
Spring Ring
Saturday, March 12, 2005

It's that time again! Hooray!!! The Thirteenth Annual Massachusetts Spring Ring at Forest Grove Middle School, Worcester, MA!!!! Don't miss out!!! A great day of ringing fun for kids from all over New England. Learn new music and techniques! Meet new friends and visit with old ones! Find other people who LOVE to play bells!

Registration packets will be available by request only. They will be mailed after January 1, 2005, to those who request a packet.

Request your registration packet by one of the following methods:

Email: cheryl@kralej.com
subject line: MYSR Registration
US Mail: Cheryl Kralej, MYSR Registrar
5 Fox Run Lane
Lexington, MA 02420
Phone: 781-862-2209
Web Site: www.agehrarea1.org

We need: Your name, church or school name,
Address or e-mail to send the packet
Evening phone number

The registration packet will also be available on the Area I Website after January 1, 2005 for downloading.

E-mail: registrar@agehrarea1.org
Mail: Karen Walker, F/C '05 Registrar
145 D'Agnillo Drive
Warwick, RI 02818



Please send me a full registration packet for Festival/Conference 2005 to be held at the University of New Hampshire on June 23-26, 2005.

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION (if applicable): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

Note that for the Area I Festival/Conference in June we will only send out registration packets to those who request them. The registration packets are also be available on the Web site.

We Need to Hear From You

This is the last issue of THE FUNDAMENTAL TONE that you will receive by regular mail unless we hear from you. As of the spring issue those who don't specifically request to receive the newsletter by mail will receive an e-mail notification as soon as the newsletter is available on-line. The e-mail message will contain a link to the on-line newsletter. However, be assured that **if you still wish to receive your newsletter by regular mail you will continue to receive it that way, but it is your responsibility to let us know that this is what you want.** The executive board hopes that this change in how we deliver our newsletter will save both financial and natural resources. By reducing the expenses of our newsletter we will have more money available to support programs to meet your needs. We have heard that many

(Continued on Page 6)

Announcing a New Area I Event For Ringers

October 15, 2005

First Congregational Church, Essex, CT

This event will be a skill-building workshop and massed ringing session for beginning choirs and ringers who need help with further developing their skills in a low-pressure environment. This event is for you if you are a beginning ringer or a ringer who has been ringing for a while, but still does not feel comfortable with reading music or interpreting how to do the various techniques required. The music rung during this event will be only Level 1 and 2 music. Topics covered will include the following:

- Developing a "perfect" ringing stroke
- Handbell terminology and the anatomy of the handbell
- Notation of special bell techniques and how to properly execute them
- Developing your sight-reading skills

Ringers who are just joining a handbell choir for the first time in Fall 2005 are especially encouraged to attend. DIRECTORS – We will help you get your new ringers started off on the right foot!

This event will be from 9:00 – 3:00 on a Saturday, including lunch. There will be no performance, just a lot of fun learning time! Keep an eye out for more information in our upcoming newsletters and on the Web site.

FALL 2005

Announcing a New Area I Event For Directors

September 23-24, 2005 – Directors' Seminar

Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA

This event will be a workshop for both beginning directors and experienced directors. Classes will include the following:

- Repertoire Reading sessions throughout the event
- Conducting Classes
- Tips for the beginning director
- How to properly teach techniques
- Selecting Music for your choirs
- Ringing Assignments
- Incorporating new ringers into your choir
- Caring for the physical needs of your ringers
- The National Directors' Certification Test

Please note that this event replaces the 2005 Winter Directors' Seminar and Fall Repertoire Reading Sessions.

It is hoped that this event will meet more of the needs of our members by offering a variety of classes that meet directors' individual needs. You will choose which classes you want to attend and there will be continuous massed repertoire ringing in the main hall. The event will run from Friday evening through Saturday with three delicious meals being provided by the hotel. Keep an eye out for more information in our upcoming newsletters and on the Web site.

of you throw away your hard copy soon after receiving it and only access the information on-line and we are aware that the handbell community contains an above-average number of computer literate people. Over half of the people who have responded so far have requested to read the on-line newsletter rather than being sent a copy by regular mail. Even if only half of our membership opts to no longer receive a hard copy we will still save many valuable resources.

In order to make this work we really need your cooperation. We need to know how you want to receive your newsletter and we need accurate e-mail addresses for those that opt for the electronic copy. We earnestly request that all Area I members fill out the form below and return it to:

Ruth Bowers
Fundamental Tone
25 Pine Rd.
Beverly, MA 01915-3729

Instead of sending in the form, you may send this information by e-mail to: editor@agehrarea1.org



NAME: _____

AGEHR MEMBERSHIP # _____

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHOICE:

_____ I wish to continue receiving my newsletter by regular mail

_____ I wish to receive an e-mail notification and link to the online newsletter

Please send it to this e-mail address:

(We will not be sending any junk mail to this e-mail address, only the newsletter notification and important Area I announcements.)

YOU MUST RETURN THIS FORM OR SEND THIS INFORMATION TO US BY E-MAIL BY APRIL 1, 2005!!!

Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival

The new date for the Merrimack Valley Handbell Festival is Saturday May 14, 2005 at Tewksbury Memorial High School. **Here is the repertoire list:**

For Adults -

Allegro Glorioso - Catherine McMichael,. AGEHR AG36030

Welcome the Day - Kath Wissinger, Above the Line DR028

Within the Darkest Night - Derek Hakes, AGEHR AG36028

For Kids -

Ode to Joy - arr. David Angerman, Flammer HP5348

The adult repertoire is all from the Area I Festival/Conference in June at UNH. The first two are massed selections and the third is a coppers piece.

I will get a mailing out with the registration form as soon as I return from the AGEHR Master Classes this coming weekend.

Hope to see you all at the Festival in May.

Karen Leonard

Family Handbell Camp

The eighth Family Handbell Camp will be running from August 6 to August 9, 2005 with an optional day on August 10, 2005. If you like beautiful scenery, hanging out with great musicians and want a chance to learn in a relaxed atmosphere, this camp is for you. This is also a great opportunity to spend time with your non-ringing family members. What a great way to start beginners in the world of handbell ringing, learn how to be an ensemble player or hone your existing skills. Workshops and playing in groups will be included. Stipends are provided to those who loan sets of bells, foam and chimes. The camp is located in Lisbon NH, two hours straight up from the southern border of NH. For more information you can see our Web page at <http://www.agehrarea1.org/FHC/index.html> and the camp's Web site at <http://www.campogontz.com/>. If you have any questions do not hesitate to write Laura Arbour at laura523@juno.com (phone: 413-323-4076) or Linda Lamb at linda.s.lamb@verizon.net (phone: 603-886-1512). The registration form is online at <http://www.agehrarea1.org/FHC/index.html>.

Needed: Looking for Medical personnel for Family Handbell Camp and Youth Handbell camp. The camps will run from August 6 - 13, 2005. In order to qualify you need to be a Nurse, Physician or EMT. Benefits include free room and board for the camp, getting some focused time to ring, meeting lots of ringers and just a great time. Please see our Web page about the Camps at <http://www.agehrarea1.org/FHC/index.html> and <http://www.campogontz.com/> to get a feel for the

camp. If you have any questions do not hesitate to write linda.s.lamb@verizon.net or call (603) 886-1512.

Linda Lamb

Youth Handbell Camp

We are starting a Youth Handbell Camp this year that will be running from August 10 to August 13, 2005. We are looking for directors of choirs between the ages of 12 - 18 and their handbell ringers. What a great way to start your ringing year with your Youth handbell group. If you like beautiful scenery, hanging out with great musicians and want a chance to learn in a relaxed atmosphere, this camp is for you. Stipends will be given to choirs bringing bell sets. The camp is located in Lisbon NH, two hours straight up from the southern border of NH. For more information you can see our Web page at <http://www.agehrarea1.org/FHC/index.html> and the camp's Web site at <http://www.campogontz.com/>. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Laura Arbour at laura523@juno.com (phone: 413-323-4076) or Linda Lamb at linda.s.lamb@verizon.net (phone: 603-886-1512). The registration form is online at <http://www.agehrarea1.org/FHC/index.html>.

Linda Lamb

New Members

Please welcome these new members to Area I:

Connecticut

Enfield Congregational Church, Enfield, CT
Marjorie Needham, Middleburg, CT
Northeast Elementary School, Stamford, CT
St. Joseph's Church, Danbury, CT
Wallis Johnson, Colchester, CT

Massachusetts

First Cong. Church of West Tisbury, W. Tisbury, MA

Maine

Deering High School, Portland, ME
Dike-Newell School, Bath, ME
First Parish United Church of Christ, Saco, ME
Great Salt Bay Elementary School, Damariscotta, ME
Kaler Elementary School, South Portland, ME

New Hampshire

Ellen Pond, Hampton Falls, NH

Nova Scotia

Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy, Liverpool, NS

Rhode Island

Steere Farm Elementary School, Pascoag, RI
St. Mary Star of the Sea Church, Narragansett, RI
Centre Congregational Church, Brattleboro, VT

Video Lending Library

The Video Lending Library has a number of resources available for Guild members. The available tapes are:

1. Tempo Setters Series
 - a. Elizabeth Bradford
 - b. Andrew Flanagan
 - c. Everett Jay Hilty
 - d. Mary Kettlehut
 - e. Robert Ivey
 - f. Jake Malta
 - g. Williard Markey
 - h. Scott Parry
 - i. Marvin Reeher
 - j. James Salzwedel
 - k. Doris Watson
2. Teaching a Piece of Handbell Music
3. 1987 National Handbell Festival Minneapolis, MN
4. Cape Cod Spring Ring - May 4, 1991
5. Beginning Handbell Ringing - Donald Allured
6. Pudding Hill Ringng - Elizabeth Bradford - 1993
7. AGEHR Area 1 Massed Ensemble Concert, Keene, NH - June 30, 1985
8. Bell Basics
9. Campanile in Concert
10. Strikepoint Live at The Copper Top

Due to a change in the lending rules, the only cost for borrowing the tapes is the cost of the return postage. If you want to borrow one of the tapes, contact either Bobbie Fillioe (store@agehrarea1.org) or Nancy Reynolds.

Special Note about Address Changes

All address changes and corrections are handled by the National AGEHR office in Dayton, Ohio. Contact Sara Smith, the Membership Director, at 1-800-878-5459, ext. 112, or by e-mail: membership@agehr.org. The Fundamental Tone cannot make or process these changes or corrections for you. Please contact the National office directly with your changes or corrections.

Coming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
January 29, 2005	VT Directors' Roundtable	United Church W. Lebanon, VT	Jerilyn Bergdahl 802-862-6521 vtchair@agehrarea1.org
February, March, 2005	VT Think Spring Rings		Jerilyn Bergdahl
March 19, 2005	MA Youth Spring Ring Clinicians: Karen James and Jean Degan	Worcester, MA	Cheryl Kraley, 781-862-2209 Cheryl@kraley.com
April 2, 2005	ME Spring Ring Clinician: Ed Henderson	Mt. Ararat Middle School Topsham, ME	Jane Connors, JConnors@firstparish.net
April 9, 2005	RI Spring Ring	E. Greenwich, RI	Carolyn Gardner, 401-782-2409 cgar106404@aol.com
April 9, 2005	VT Youth Ring	Hartland, VT	Averill Tinker, 603-448-0275, averill.tinker@valley.net
April 29, 2005	VT Directors' Workshop	Newport, VT	Jerilyn Bergdahl, 802-862-6521 vtchair@agehrarea1.org
April 30, 2005	CT Spring Ring Clinician: Jean Degan	Valley Community Baptist Church, Avon, CT	Sue Wilber ctchair@agehrarea1.org
April 30, 2005	VT Spring Ring Clinician: Deborah Rice	Newport, VT	Jerilyn Bergdahl, 802-862-6521 vtchair@agehrarea1.org
May 14, 2005	Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival	Tewksbury, MA	Ed Henderson, 978-851-3024 EdH@DELTA-F.com Karen Leonard, 978-256-8404 WCUMCKEL@aol.com
June 23-26, 2005	Area I Festival/Conference Clinicians: Kathleen Wissinger Dave Ruder	University of NH Durham, NH	Karen Walker, 401-885-1660 Piwackit@aol.com
August 6-10, 2005	Area I Family Handbell Camp	Camp Ogontz Lisbon, NH	Laura Arbour, 413-323-4076 laura523@juno.com
August 10-13, 2005	Area I Youth Festival	Camp Ogontz Lisbon, NH	Linda Lamb, 603-886-1512, secretary@agehrarea1.org
September 23-24, 2005	Area I Directors' Seminar	Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods, Boxborough, MA	
October 15, 2005	Area I Skill Building Workshop	First Congregational Church of Essex, Essex, CT	
November 5, 2005	Area I High School Ring Out	Souhegan High School Amherst, NH	

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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 (Ruth.Bowers@comcast.net or call 978-922-8137). Advertising rates:

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

The preferred format for an ad is as a .jpg file. DO NOT send it as a .PDF file.



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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Personal Address or  Organizational Address

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business/School/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a  New Membership or  Renewal

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                |                               |                                     |
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| <b>Credit Card Information</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard |
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