

Handbell Musicians of America Area 1, Inc.

www.area1.handbellmusicians.org

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Biennial Report from Maine Area 1, Handbell Musicians of America June 2015

Since our last Festival Conference in June 2013, Maine has been busy focusing on reviving the Maine Spring Ring. A committee was established and as of this article: the date, April 9, 2016; the site, Winthrop High School; the conductor, Peter Coulombe; and the pool of repertoire has been established. The Maine Festival will include workshops, vendors, catered lunch, massage therapists and massed ring performances. Although most of the active committee members come from mid Maine and the geographical northern parts, it is hoped that the Winthrop site will be encouraging to those in southern Maine as well.

During the last 2 yrs. many of the Maine Bell Choirs have continued to be active. The students from the Pine Tree Academy were spotlighted on the Area 1 Website for their European tour. In addition, the students from the Lincoln Middle School in Portland were featured in Fundamental Tone as one of the few Middle School Handbell Choirs to celebrate its 30th anniversary. The Penobscot Bay Ringers, the Winthrop Area Ringers, the Kennebunkport Ringers, the Auburn Methodist Ringers were active in performing at libraries, museums, nursing homes, prisons and community Christmas Concerts. The Skowhegan area ringers traveled to New York for the opportunity to ring with other bell choirs at Carnegie Hall. Many Maine churches also celebrate the enhancement of their worship service by their own handbell choirs.

In addition, work has been ongoing to revive the Area 1 Family Handbell Camp. Thanks to the efforts of Ed Henderson and Dan Moore, the opportunity to combine family time and music in beautiful surroundings will come to life in June of 2016 at Camp Oceanwood in Ocean Park, Maine. Maine is excited to host this special experience.

Finally, the initiative of Handbell Musicians of America "Bells in Closets" is one that Maine has been interested in for a few years. A short list has been started but would appreciate more information from those who might be aware of bells that are no longer in use, or choirs that are looking for handbells to borrow, rent, lease or purchase.

Respectfully submitted,

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